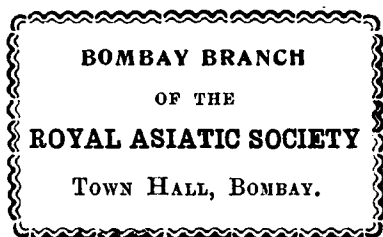




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AN
EXPOSITION
OF THE
RELATIONS
OF THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT
WITH THE
SULTAUN AND STATE OF PALEMBANG,
&c. &c. &c.

AN
EXPOSITION
OF THE
RELATIONS
OF THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT
WITH THE
SULTAUN AND STATE OF PALEMBANG
AND THE
DESIGNS OF THE NETHERLANDS' GOVERNMENT
UPON THAT COUNTRY;
WITH
DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNTS AND MAPS
OF
PALEMBANG
AND THE
ISLAND OF BANCA.



143141

By MAJOR M. H. COURT,

Late Resident at the Court of Palembang, and Resident and
Commandant of the Island of Banca.



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PREFACE.

IN presenting this book to the Public, the Author contemplates the performance of two duties.

First, The contribution to the general stock of such knowledge, respecting countries of which little is at present known, and less has been communicated, as, in the course of his public service, he has had favourable opportunities of acquiring.

Secondly, The exertion of his endeavours to extricate the people of a state, with whom he lived in a perfect correspondence of friendship and goodwill, from the rapacity and injustice of a neighbour, whom our Government imposed upon them, as a friend and an ally, contrary to their own wishes. Had they been consulted, they would have appeared to desire a lasting alliance and dependence upon the British nation. That the misfortunes and difficulties with which they have now to contend against the threatened overwhelming attacks of a powerful and remorseless neighbour, have originated in their avowed partiality towards the British Government, will be placed beyond contradiction in the progress of this volume.

That

That the hostilities of their aspiring neighbour have no other foundation than jealousy of the good name which Britain has acquired with a grateful people, will be made also indisputably apparent. That these hostilities are directed to an object, nothing short of the destruction and usurpation of the country belonging to these people, will also be considered as conclusive, from the recorded proceedings of the agent of an inimical government.

If the Author possessed the power corresponding with his inclinations and his sense of political justice, he would direct the voice of the British Government to pronounce to the Netherlands' Government these words:

“ You have committed a wrong towards us in going so far. We are, however, willing to wave our right of complaint and indemnity to this extent; but you must not, you shall not go farther. You have dethroned one Sultaun of Palembang, who you well knew was exalted to the throne by us, in vindication of the wrongs of your countrymen, and who, therefore, you were bound, on every principle of equity, laying aside all considerations of gratitude to us, to maintain and support. You have dethroned him for no other reason than his open, manly, and generous avowal of his grateful remembrance of the British Government. You have raised another Sultaun to the throne, who had been displaced by us for his cruelties committed upon your countrymen; but in
doing

doing so, you annexed conditions which would have placed the whole country in your possession. You cannot be surprized that he and his people are united in arms, to resist such a pretension, such unworthy ambition and lust of dominion.

“ The resistance of the Palembang people is founded upon rights established by every law which regulates the community of nations: as such, it is sanctified and sanctioned by us. In delivering the island of Banca to us they stipulated a guarantee of their future independence and right to govern themselves, and they only asked what they always enjoyed. In giving the island of Banca to you, you were bound by the obligations of our tenure. Those obligations we will maintain and enforce. We will not allow any encroachment upon the Palembang state, and therefore it will be in vain for you to attempt its subjugation. We are willing to mediate between you and that state, on the basis of their independence, and their incontrovertible right to govern their own country, according to their own laws, and under the administration of their own Sultaun and their own chiefs.

“ You shall have a resident at the court, and the possession of a factory, in like manner as we enjoyed them. You shall have the same privileges as we had, for the security of your possessions on Banca, and the respect due to your nation.

“ In offering you thus much we offer all that you can honourably and justly require, and every privilege.

lege necessary for the security and honour of your colonial government.

“ Whether you act for yourselves, or through our mediation which we by no means desire, we, on our parts, will be careful to guard our own interests, by preventing your ascendancy on Sumatra; and at the same time fulfil our duty towards the Palembang state, by protecting it against lawless aggression and unjust usurpation.”

How far such language would be warranted by the circumstances, the reader will have the fullest and fairest opportunity of judging for himself, in the course of his perusal of the following sheets.

N.B. The documents to which a reference appears at pages 66, 68, 70, 78, 81, and 95, will be found in the Asiatic Journal, for Feb. 1819, as published with the Protest of Sir T. Stamford Raffles.

EXPOSITION,

&c. &c.

THE Island of BANCA having formed an important part of the dominions of the Sultaun of Palembang; a recapitulation of the events which produced his cession of that island to British sovereignty will not be considered foreign to the subject of this narrative, as those events will be found materially connected with the contest in which the people of Palembang have been and still are engaged, in opposition to the violent and unjustifiable measures pursued towards them by the Authorities of the Netherlands Government, since the transfer to that power of the Island of Banca and the Factory of Palembang in December 1816, according to the treaty concluded in August 1814.

The subjection of the Island of Java and its dependencies to the British arms, was decided by the action of the 26th of August 1811; and the terms for the surrender of that important colony, by the French Governor-General and Commander-in-chief, were arranged in articles of capitulation, signed and completed on the 11th of September following. In the course of that month, the accounts of this event became known to the Sultaun of Palembang, for the probability of which he had been previously prepared, by communications of the designs of the British armament, which he had received from Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles; who for some months antecedently had been employed by the Earl of Minto, then Governor-General, as his agent with the Malay States.

Sir T. S. Raffles, in furtherance of the object of his mission; also to facilitate the service for which the expedition was formed, and to distract the councils of the French Authorities on Java; had previously,

viously, through the mission of native emissaries, acquainted the Sultaun of Palembang with the powers vested in him by the Governor-General ; inviting him to break off his alliance with the Dutch, as that nation had been subverted by the French, and to form an alliance with the British Government, on the same basis of commercial stipulation as that which had existed with the Dutch, but without any infringement of his independent authority over Palembang. The Sultaun, perhaps wisely, thought it expedient to wait the result of our attempt on Java ; or, as may be more justly inferred from his subsequent conduct, expected that, in the collision of the two powers, he might be able to throw off all connexion with either of them. Whatever may have been his expectations ; he came to no decision until he received intelligence of our success. He then assembled his chiefs and their dependants, and sent a select body of them to gain admittance into the Dutch Fort, which is situated on

the opposite bank of the river and nearly fronting his palace.

The situation of the Dutch Resident, and the servants of the Factory, was, at this time, one of evident difficulty. The Commander of the troops advised to shut the gates of the Fort, and refuse admittance ; but the Resident considering it best to acquiesce in the demand of the chiefs, they were accordingly admitted ; and he proceeded across the river, with the officers of the Factory, to explain to the Sultaun ;—That in consequence of the conquest of the island of Java, the Fort and Factory at Palembang necessarily reverted to the British Authority, and that he would deliver it over accordingly, as soon as the officers, deputed by that Government to receive possession, should arrive.

The Sultaun gave no other reply ; than that they had no longer any business at Palembang, and that he had therefore provided prows to convey them to Malacca. On board these the Dutch Resident
and

and the officers of the Factory were, accordingly, embarked, and conveyed to a village called Soensang, nearly at the mouth of the Palembang river. Here it was supposed they were murdered, as nothing more was heard or seen of them; but whether by the express command of the Sultaun; or by an act of treachery, solely to be attributed to the natives who had the charge of their conveyance, and who might have been instigated by the expectation of plunder, could never be ascertained. Certain it is; that the Sultaun manifested no displeasure, or resentment of this criminal proceeding; though he was clearly responsible for the safe conduct of these individuals, who, without any possible pretext, had been so basely massacred.

The Fort which encompassed the Dutch Factory, and which had reverted to the British Authority with the other dependencies of Java, was razed from its foundation.

The British Government of Java hav-

ing received information of the melancholy fate of the Dutch Resident, and the servants of the Factory at Palembang; dispatched three Commissioners to demand from the Sultaun an explanation of this catastrophe, and of the destruction of the Fort.

On the arrival of these gentlemen at Palembang, they were accommodated with a house and every suitable provision; but were not permitted to go abroad, or to extend their observations or enquiries. In a few days they were conveyed back to the ship of war which brought them, the Sultaun having determined to refuse all negociation or explanation. In a full assembly of his chiefs, he quoted the precepts of the Koran in support of his policy for maintaining the perfect independence of his sovereignty, and rejecting all correspondence with European infidels.

On the return of the Commissioners to Batavia from their fruitless mission, an armament was equipped, to obtain by the

the sword what had been so unjustly refused to a treaty.

This force sailed under the orders of the late Major-General Sir R. R. Gillespie, then Commander of the Forces on Java, and reached Palembang in the latter end of the month of April 1812. On their approach the Sultaun fled immediately; and so great was his consternation, that the gallant General, impatient of delay, actually entered the palace with Captain Meares and as many European soldiers as a fast rowing boat could convey, and met with no opposition whatever. Two of the native chiefs, one of high rank, Pangerang Nato dé Radjo, whose family was closely allied by marriage with that of the Sultaun; and an Arab chief, Pangerang Sheriff Omar, soon after paid their respects to the Commander of the Forces, and in the course of two days the eldest brother of the fugitive Sultaun (the Pangerang Adapattie) sent word that he was anxious to have a conference with the British Commander, on assurance of

B 4 protection.

protection. This being conveyed to him, he was received with the ceremonials and salutes due to his rank.

The Commander of the Forces now explained the objects intended by the armament under his command ;—to punish those who had committed the massacre of the members of the Dutch Factory ; to demand indemnity for this act of perfidy and the destruction of the Fort ; and a satisfactory explanation of the Sultaun's conduct towards the Commissioners sent to enquire into these proceedings. He regretted that the Sultaun, by his flight, had precluded the possibility of an amicable arrangement of these points, by communication with himself ; and, in order to guard against any disorders that might ensue from the absence of the usual Authorities, he requested that the Pangerang Adapattie would assume the administration of the laws, until permanent arrangements could be made for the government of the country. The Pangerang Adapattie, in acceding to the wishes of the

the Commander of the Forces, expressed his sense of the honour conferred by the confidence reposed in him.

The General had, in the mean time, deputed a confidential Arab to the fugitive Sultaun, to explain the terms upon which he would be permitted to conciliate the wrongs he had inflicted. The Ex-Sultaun having rejected the proffered conditions, which it would now be needless to mention, the General contemplated to elevate to the throne of Palembang, on certain conditions, the third son of the fugitive Sultaun; exceptions being taken to the eldest, the Pangerang Ratoo, a young man of profligate character, whose conduct had been, on many occasions, marked by violence and outrage towards the inhabitants. A similar exception was taken to the second son, Pangerang Adie Mungala, a youth of seventeen years of age, but certainly on mistake or upon erroneous information. He was, and I have no doubt is to this day, a young man of mild manners, modest deportment, and unexcep-

unexceptionable conduct, whose character, during my intercourse with Palembang for three years and a half, was held in estimation by all classes of the inhabitants.

The General now communicated to the Pangerang Adapattie his intention of exalting to the throne the third son, a boy of twelve years of age. He further proposed, until the nephew should attain an age to qualify him for the administration of the sovereign authority, to vest the regency in him, the Pangerang Adapattie; who observed in reply, that he could not hope to maintain his authority as regent under such circumstances. The deposed Sultaun would doubtless preserve his influence over the chiefs and people of the country, while himself, with all the other chiefs, who had so recently deserted the Ex-Sultaun, to espouse the cause and seek the protection of the British Government, would be exposed to his resentment and fall the victims of his secret revenge. If, therefore, such were the

the measures to be pursued, he requested to be allowed to withdraw from Palembang, and to have a residence allotted to him, under the protection of the British Government.

The Commander of the Forces having duly weighed the reasons urged by the Pangerang Adapattie, found just grounds to apprehend their truth, and as the events transpiring on Java rendered it indispensably necessary to adjust, as speedily as possible, the settlement of the government of the country, he finally determined to vest the Pangerang Adapattie with the dignity of Sultaun. He was the eldest brother and next in dignity to the deposed Sultaun, and by his conduct had manifested the utmost fidelity, from which he has never since in one instance departed, and in so far has justified his selection.

The following articles of treaty were then arranged :

- “ 1. The Sultaun, Ratoo Achmed
- “ Najm al Deen, for himself, his heirs
- “ and

“ and successors, and in the name of all
 “ the Pangerangs, Mantries, and chiefs
 “ of Palembang, doth cede to His Ma-
 “ jesty the King of the United Kingdoms
 “ of Great Britain and Ireland, and to
 “ the Honourable English East-India
 “ Company, the full and uncontrolled
 “ sovereignty and possession of the Island
 “ of Banca, the Island of Billiton, and
 “ all the other small Islands adjacent
 “ thereto and dependent thereon; and
 “ the Sultaun further engages, that this
 “ deed of cession shall be authenticated
 “ by a formal written transfer under his
 “ signature and chop, and that of the
 “ Princes, Pangerangs, and Mantries of
 “ Palembang who may be concerned
 “ therein.

“ 3. The Sultaun engages to allow
 “ the free departure and return of all
 “ persons from and to Palembang and
 “ Banca, with their families and property,
 “ and to protect their families and pro-
 “ perty during their absence. In like
 “ manner, the English East-India Com-
 “ pany

“ pany engages to permit the free departure of all persons from Banca, with their families and property, who may wish to go to Palembang.

“ 4. The Sultaun engages to send whatever supplies of provisions and other articles may be required from his country for the service of Banca, on reasonable terms.

“ 7. The Sultaun engages to give countenance and protection to the Chinese and Arabs living at Palembang; also to protect and to preserve the freedom of all those who were formerly residing under the protection of the Dutch Factory; and the Sultaun engages to punish any persons who may molest or disturb them, in such manner as, in conjunction with the opinion of the Resident, they may appear to merit.”

The second article of the treaty engaged that there should be set apart, as an allowance to the Sultaun of Palembang, a portion of the net revenue of Banca, which would

would be determined by Government. The other articles merely related to the measures to be pursued against the deposed Sultaun, the division of his captured treasures between the parties to this treaty: and the purchase of the palace, guns, and other property from the captors, for 200,000 dollars. These articles were annulled by a subsequent treaty, concluded on the 21st of August 1813.

On the 14th of May 1812, proclamation was made of the reasons for which the Sultaun Mahmud Badr al Deen had been deposed, and the Pangerang Adapattie announced as his successor, and submitted, as such, to the election of the Pangerangs, chiefs, and people present; who having declared their assent by unanimous acclamations, his installation to the dignity took place according to the usual ceremonies, after which he received the homage and allegiance of all his subjects. On this occasion he assumed the sovereign dignity, by the title and name of Sultaun Ratoo Achmed Najm al Deen.

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Previous to the departure of the armament sent from Batavia to Palembang; the Sultaun of Djoyocarta, a native Prince of some consideration in the south-eastern provinces of Java, had shown a disposition to violate the ancient stipulations of his alliance with the European Power on Java; and all negociations with a view to maintain the relations of amity that had subsisted since the expulsion of the French power, having unhappily failed; hostilities appeared at this time to be inevitable.

Having therefore concluded the arrangements above-mentioned for the settlement of the country and the administration of the government of Palembang, the Commander of the Forces was necessitated to relinquish all pursuit of the deposed Sultaun, and to expedite his return, with the greater portion of the troops, to Java, where their services were imperiously required, to check the progress of the Sultaun of Djoyocarta, in his endeavours to excite a combination of the
neigh-

neighbouring princes against the Government.

It forms no part of the subject of this narrative to relate the particulars of this service, which was executed with that decision, promptitude, and valour, which had been displayed so conspicuously in India on many important occasions by the gallant Gillespie, whose military career had constantly been animated by that dauntless spirit of enterprize which so eminently marked its fatal termination.

General Gillespie, with the less reluctance, refrained from further hostilities against the deposed Sultaun, as he was assured by the Sultaun Najm al Deen, that very few of the chieftains remained attached to the fortunes of his brother, and that he could confide in the submission and support of those who had pledged to him their allegiance. He requested one hundred men only, if they could possibly be spared, more effectually to guard against any vacillation of his adherents, who by the appearance of this small

small body would feel assured that the British Government, having raised the Sultaun to the sovereignty, would continue to support him.

On the 18th May, therefore, the Commander of the Forces quitted Palembang with all the troops, excepting one hundred men left at the desire of the new Sultaun; and crossing the Straits of Banca, reached Mintok, the chief town on the island of Banca, on the 20th; where, on the following day, all the chiefs of the island who could conveniently attend, having by previous arrangement been assembled, the Deed of Cession, under the seal and signature of the Sultaun of Palembang and the Princes of that state, was formally proclaimed. The island was declared for the future to be denominated Duke of York's Island. But this change of name having been since considered, by the Supreme Government, likely to occasion some inconvenience to mariners in the navigation of those seas, where the natives would call it by the ancient name, its old designation

designation was directed to be retained. The principal town was named *Minto*, in compliment to the highly venerated Governor-General of India, under whose wise and benevolent administration, and personal supervisance, the conquest of the important island of Java had been achieved.

A spot, at the western point of the island, called Tanjong Kaleang, was chosen for the establishment of the troops, the residency, and the erection of a fort, to be called Fort Nugent, in compliment to his Excellency Sir George Nugent, then Commander-in-Chief in India, an officer respected and beloved by all who enjoyed the honour of any intercourse with him, either of an official or a private nature.

Captain Meares, of the Madras Establishment, who had acquired a knowledge of the Malayan language and the manners of the people, during a previous residence at the Moluccas, was appointed the Resident and Commandant of the island, in addition to the duties of Resident at the Court

Court of the Sultaun of Palembang. He was an officer exceeding in height and proportion the usual stature, and whose personal qualities cannot be better expressed, than in the language of a Palembang chief, “ Bageetoo besar dea poonia “ budun, bageetoo besar dea poonia àtee ;” which in English may be interpreted, that he possessed a large body and an equally great soul.

A requisite body of troops having been left at Banca, under the command of the Resident and Commandant, General Gillespie, with the remainder, returned to Java.

Confining this relation to the events more particularly belonging to our connexion with the Palembang state, it will be only necessary to notice the more prominent measures pursued.

Captain Meares having settled in perfect security all matters on Banca, ordered all the disposable part of his force to Palembang, with a design of pursuing the deposed Sultaun. On the 28th of August

the troops were distributed in thirty armed boats belonging to the Sultaun, and commenced their route up the river, with thirty-one prows, carrying forty-three guns of small calibre; and seventy-seven prows, on which the chiefs of the Sultaun with their dependents were embarked.

The deposed Sultaun had taken up a position at a place called Buayo Lango, about one hundred miles from Palembang, up the river. Here he had erected a battery, and was enabled to intercept the provisions coming from the upper country, on which Palembang is in a great degree dependent for its usual supplies.

On the fourth day from their departure from Palembang, Captain Meares arrived within six hours' rowing of the Sultaun's post. Here he waited until all the prows were assembled; and having formed them in regular order, he continued his route, and on the next day came in sight of the fugitive Sultaun's post, against which he immediately advanced with the detachment

ment of Artillery, Bengal Seapoys, and Amboynese. The post was immediately carried; and the deposed Sultaun, with all his treasures, would doubtless have been captured, but for the hesitation occasioned by the fall of Captain Meares, who was shot in the body whilst entering the battery at the head of his men. The officer who succeeded to the command of the British troops lost the opportunity of following up the successful attack upon the post.

The Ex-Sultaun, in the mean time, fled with the utmost precipitation, and did not stop in his retreat until he had ascended to Mararawas, one hundred and fifty miles higher up the river; where, finding himself unmolested, he took up a position and fortified himself, prepared here to wait any further attack.

The troops returned to Palembang with their wounded commander, who on his approach was met by the Sultaun Najm al Deen, whose grateful mind was moved to tears on beholding an officer, for whom he

had the utmost esteem, labouring under such severe suffering from a wound obtained in exertions and devotedness to his cause. Captain Meares passed over to Banca, where he died on the 15th September, leaving the memory of his name and gallant conduct recorded in the hearts and minds of the Sultaun and an admiring people.

If the character of the Malayese be allowed to display a vindictive spirit and a fervour of resentment, we must acknowledge in them the virtue of ardour in their gratitude for favours conferred. This the Sultaun Najm al Deen has evinced on every occasion; and no motive of personal interest could have produced this feeling, when, on a recent occasion, he declared to the Dutch Resident; “that
 “ he never could forget his obligations to
 “ the British nation;”—an expression which seems to have been, in the opinion of the Dutch Governors, an inexpiable offence, and for which he appears to
 have

have endured every degradation in their power to inflict. Not only has he been displaced from his throne, but, severed from his country, kindred, and friends, he has been transported to a residence in the baneful climate of Batavia.

The advance of Captain Meares, and his attack upon the fugitive Sultaun, had convinced that Prince of the insecurity of any position within a reasonable distance of Palembang; and the remote situation where he subsequently sought refuge enabled the reigning Sultaun to extend his authority over the intermediate country. Palembang, in consequence, was relieved of all inconvenience from want of the customary supplies, which were now provided in their usual course.

Notwithstanding the submission of the whole country, excepting the distant district held by the Ex-Sultaun, and the undisturbed acknowledgment of the authority of the reigning Sultaun in Palembang; it became an object of the Java

Government to remove all occasion of conflict, and to restore perfect tranquillity in the Palembang dominions, by driving the Ex-Sultaun even from the distant province.

This pursuit did not present much prospect of taking his person, in a country where he had so many means of avoiding his pursuers ; yet it was expected that negotiation might effect the object in view ; as the letters which the Ex-Sultaun addressed and transmitted at several times to the Resident, were written in a tone of submission ; and in them he requested to be restored to the favour and protection of the British Government. The Residents at Banca and Palembang who succeeded Major Meares were accordingly authorized to correspond with the deposed Sultaun, and to endeavour, by the offer of a residence and protection for himself and family in the British territories, to obtain his acquiescence in the views of Government. Nothing, however, was to be
done,

done, subversive of, or derogatory to the rights and interests of the reigning Sultaun.

The Resident at Palembang, in furtherance of these intentions, entered into a correspondence with the Ex-Sultaun, whose letters in reply generally contained proposals for the payment of money to the Government on condition of his re-establishment. Afterwards, in the hope of more speedily and explicitly arranging the terms of the Ex-Sultaun's submission, he was invited to send confidential agents to meet and confer personally with the Resident, who offered them a safe conduct. The Ex-Sultaun lost no time in deputing his most able agent, the son of an Arab priest, high in his favour, faithful to his trust, and of good talents for negociation and intrigue. He, with two of the subordinate chiefs of Palembang, who had followed the Ex-Sultaun in his flight, were received at Banca by the Resident, in the month of April; and in the beginning of the following month, a British officer,

officer, accompanied by a Dutch officer in the British service as interpreter, were sent on a mission to the Ex-Sultaun. The British officer had instructions to avail himself of every opportunity to observe the strength, position, and resources of that Prince, and to assure him that the Government would not admit of any arrangement injurious to the rights and interests of the reigning Sultaun; but that, if he would pay to the Government 500,000 dollars, he should be permitted to return to Palembang, and to live wherever he pleased, in quiet retirement under the protection of the British Government. The officer was also instructed to give him assurances of protection and a safe conduct, and thus to induce him to afford the Resident a personal interview on Banca, or to throw himself upon the consideration of the Government of Java or the Governor-General of Bengal. The officer was further instructed, in case the Ex-Sultaun objected to go himself, to receive proposals from him to send one
of

of his sons, to negotiate for the terms of his residence at Palembang; giving him at the same time clearly to understand, that in the event of the Government acceding to such a wish, it could only be effected by such an agreement as would give security to the sovereign rights, interests, and authority of the reigning Sultaun.

The Resident, more strongly to impress on the Ex-Sultaun and his adherents the expediency of entering upon some amicable arrangement consistently with the basis proposed, ordered the preparation of the military force under his command, with a view to hostile measures, in the event of the failure of his negotiations.

The Ex-Sultaun received the British officer deputed to him at Mararawas, with every mark of attention, civility, and honour; professed the most abject submission; and offered any atonement by payment of money which his means would allow: that he would pay down 50,000 dollars, and bind himself to pay at a future period

period 450,000 more, but with the invariable reservation that he should be permitted to return to Palembang restored to his sovereign dignity ; which condition he emphatically insisted upon, in expressing to the officer deputed to him ; “ that he
 “ might lose his head, but he could never
 “ submit to be disgraced in his own capital where he had reigned so many
 “ years.” He hoisted the British flag at his post, declared himself and all his people to be placed under the authority and protection of the British Government ; and in so doing, it may be supposed that he intended to convey to his own adherents, as well as to those of the reigning Sultaun, who were placed at a post but a short distance from him, the impression that the negotiations he was pursuing concerned only the terms of his restoration to sovereignty.

The Resident continued in correspondence with the Ex-Sultaun, notwithstanding his avowed determination not to accede to any terms which did not include

clude his restoration ; and the Ex-Sultaun used every artifice to convey to the chiefs and people of Palembang the belief, that such was the tendency of his negotiations. These appearances had doubtless the effect of inducing many who were in obedience to the reigning Sultaun to prepare for a change of authority.

His two younger brothers (one who by his elevation to the throne had succeeded him as Pangerang Adapattie, the other by title the Pangerang Ario) were now emboldened to wait upon the Resident, and to request of him not to pursue any hostile measures against the Ex-Sultaun, for whom they professed their regard : to assure him that the reigning Sultaun had little power and no revenue, and that the minds and wishes of the people in general were favourably disposed towards the deposed Sultaun, who, for several years, had reigned over them.

The Resident, considering the British force under his orders inadequate of itself to any hostile movement against the Ex-Sultaun,

Sultaun ; and believing that he could not prudently rely upon the fidelity of the chiefs and people whom the reigning Sultaun might direct to assist and support him ; waited upon that Prince, and at a private audience communicated the substance of the information he had received from the Pangerangs Adapattie and Ario ; and delivering his persuasion of the truth of their representations, he recommended that the Sultaun should resign in favour of his deposed brother, at the same time setting forth the hope that Government might, in compensation, give him the authority and title of Sultaun over the island of Banca, with the prospect of again succeeding as Sultaun of Palembang on the death of his brother.

In reply to this proposition, the Sultaun begged that the Resident would go on with his preparations for hostility against the Ex-Sultaun, engaging to provide amply the requisite aids of men and prowess ; and that if arms and ammunition were furnished, he would put his stockade

at

at Mararawas in such a state of defence as to enable the Resident to commence operations within sight of the deposed Sultaun's works.

The ammunition having been provided, the Resident, on the 19th June, proceeded up the river with forty men in the boats provided by the Sultaun, the crews of which deserted them on the 21st ; in consequence of which the Resident sent a gentleman back to Palembang, to repeat to the Sultaun his conviction of the necessity of resorting to the proceeding he had contemplated, and which he had intimated in his last audience. Receiving at this time a communication from the officer at Mararawas, that the Ex-Sultaun had been informed of the ammunition supplied to the reigning Sultaun's party, and of the hostile preparations making at Palembang ; and that he felt great surprise and uneasiness at such appearances whilst a friendly negociation was pending ; the Resident in reply caused it to be communicated to the Ex-Sultaun, that he had adopted

adopted those measures in consequence of the money not being sent down, which alone, in proof of his submission, would warrant the Resident in treating with him ; but that if he would send the money he had offered to the Government, the Resident would give him a personal interview.

In token of his sincerity, the Ex-Sultaun immediately sent 100,000 dollars, under charge of Vakeels, who met the Resident on his way up the river on the 25th June, promising 100,000 dollars more in a few days. On the 26th June the Resident was met some miles down the river by the Ex-Sultaun, who conducted him into his post, and attended him with every possible mark of honour and respect.

The result of this interview was the conclusion of a treaty on the 29th June, by which the Ex-Sultaun was to be restored to the throne of Palembang.

The Resident left Mararawas on the 1st July 1813, taking with him the Pangerang Rattoo and the Pangerang Adie Mungala, the two eldest sons of the restored Sultaun ;

taun; and on his arrival at Palembang waited upon the Sultaun Najm al Deen, and explained the terms of the treaty he had concluded with the Sultaun Badr al Deen, to which the Resident, by his persuasions, at length obtained the concurrence of the Sultaun Najm al Deen.

On the 13th July the Sultaun Mahmood Badr al Deen entered the capital of Palembang, where he was once more installed as Sultaun and Sovereign, in conformity with the stipulations of the treaty which had been previously arranged with the Resident at Mararawas, a copy of which forms Appendix, No. I.

The measures thus pursued by the Resident were entirely at variance with the instructions he had received from the Government which he represented, and correspondent with whose instructions his powers to act were necessarily defined and limited. Yet, from any circumstances previously connected with these measures, it will be difficult to qualify their adoption by inference of such an insuperable necessity,

cessity, as could alone have justified the exercise of a paramount responsibility.

The reasons by which the Resident appears to have been actuated may be assigned as follow :—

First, the strength of the Ex-Sultaun's position at Mararawas, the inadequate and uncertain aids expected from the reigning Sultaun, the incompetency of the British force to make any attack with probability of success, and the disastrous consequences of a failure. Even in the event of forcing that position, success would only lead to the more distant flight of the Ex-Sultaun with his treasures, and in the interior he would easily avoid the seizure of his person or the capture of his property.

Secondly, the conviction that the chiefs and the people of Palembang were generally favourable to the Ex-Sultaun's restoration, and that the Sultaun Najm al Deen himself would be inclined to consider a compliance with the general wish (as the Resident understood it) most conducive
to

to his personal happiness and tranquillity, if connected with arrangements for his provision and security.

Thirdly, the relief of the Palembang country from the anarchy and disasters attendant on civil war; and

Lastly, the superior personal qualifications of the Ex-Sultaun compared with those of his brother, the reigning Sultaun.

As to the first of these reasons, the Ex-Sultaun, according to the report of the British officer deputed to visit him at his post, had about two thousand followers, including all descriptions. He had selected a strong position, embracing both banks of the river, connected by an island, having all advantages of commanding ground with natural difficulties of access, rendered still more insurmountable by works of defence executed with great care and skill. The officer considered six hundred efficient troops necessary in any attempt to assault such a position, while the British force which the Resident could make disposable for such service did not

exceed three hundred ; yet, admitting the insufficiency of such a force for offensive operations, it cannot be denied to have been competent to check any offensive measures on the part of the Ex-Sultaun. He had been driven from his first position in the attack conducted by Capt. Meares with no greater resources than those existing at this time. The reigning Sultaun, also, had an advanced post only a few miles from that of the Ex-Sultaun, whereby his authority was maintained over the considerable tract of country between that post and Palembang, and by which the Ex-Sultaun was kept in check ; no urgent necessity, therefore, could be inferred from this reason

Respecting the second reason, it is certain that many of the chiefs were faithfully and sincerely devoted to the reigning Sultaun. That many began to manifest a disposition in favour of the deposed Sultaun may also be true ; but to this they were induced at the instigation of the emissaries of the Ex-Sultaun.

These,

These, during a negociation of nearly three months, were permitted, in their visits to and from the Resident, to pass through the whole extent of the territories acknowledging the authority of the reigning Sultaun. The mission also of two officers to the Ex-Sultaun gave countenance to the expectations held forth to them of his restoration, a condition upon which he had constantly insisted in his proposals of submission. At the same time, the hoisting of the English flag by the Ex-Sultaun at his post, in presence of the officers deputed to him, and his public declaration that he was under the protection of the English Government, afforded appearances to corroborate and give effect to the assertion of his emissaries that such was the tendency of the negociations. The authority and influence of the reigning Sultaun over his chiefs would evidently, under such circumstances, be much impaired, and all would receive an impulse to shew their predilection, whether pretended or

otherwise, for a prince who had reigned many years, and who seemed to have acquired the interposition of the authorities of the British Government in support of his return to the sovereign rule and dignity. As to the expected compliance of the Sultaun Najm al Deen, it has been already related, that before the Resident went up the river to meet the Ex-Sultaun, the reigning Sultaun, in conference upon this subject, explicitly declared his aversion to such a procedure, and his ability and determination, with the assistance of the British force, not only to resist his brother's pretensions, but to force him from his position. Notwithstanding this positive refusal to abdicate, the Resident a few days after, on the 29th June, concludes the treaty with the Ex-Sultaun for his restoration; and, within a few days more, returns to Palembang, to acquaint the Sultaun that his concurrence was stipulated in the terms of the treaty, but that without his consent the treaty would not be

be carried into effect. In the mean time, the greater number of the chiefs who, previous to this negociation, had been faithful to their allegiance due to the reigning Sultaun, seeing the die cast by the Resident's signature of this treaty, lose no time in offering their devotions to the returning prince. Thus deserted by the British Resident, and consequently by his chiefs, the reigning Sultaun had no alternative but acquiescence. Every motive for this acquiescence, therefore, originated in the acts of the Resident himself, who, on the contrary, would have best preserved the fidelity and aid of all the chiefs who had submitted to the Sultaun Najmal Deen by a determinate line of conduct and of policy in support of his authority.

With respect to the third reason, it is evidently futile, unless established by the confirmation of the two preceding. At any rate, it was for the existing Government to decide on the expediency of the termination of such evils, by such means

as were nothing short of the tacit avowal of weakness, or an implied admission of the injustice of their former proceedings.

No man of much intercourse with the world will deny the influence of personal character in important transactions, and especially in negotiations. Although, therefore, the conduct and not the character of the Ex-Sultaun could be with propriety considered in his relations with the British Government, yet, so far as his character may appear to have induced the successful issue of his negotiations, it will not be irrelevant to the subject to pourtray its principal features.

Born to succeed his father as sovereign of the country, he was trained to the contemplation of uncontrolled authority over his family, chieftains, and people. A mind active and discriminating, regulated his temper in subservience to his views; either encouraging his naturally despotic disposition, or disciplining it into conciliation and submission. The character of a despotic prince, is altogether
determined

determined by the temper. That of this prince was evidently one, which viewed with impatience the imperfect limitation of his depotism by the presence and influence of the Resident from a stronger European power, which he endured no longer than he thought consistent with his own security. Vigilant in the maintenance and administration of his authority, he was feared and respected by all his chiefs. Kind, courteous, and generous to those who were so fortunate as to obtain his favour and confidence, stern and unrelenting towards those to whom he attributed real or supposed negligence or injury. Dissimulation and intrigue were the expedients of his policy, which he admirably adapted to his purpose.

In stature he rather exceeded the common height of the Malays ; with a genteel person, well-made, and a good countenance, which invariably marked the emotions of his mind. Of very prepossessing manners, and particularly so when his eyes glistened and his whole demeanor evinced

evinced the gratification of his heart, on receiving any communication which materially interested and pleased him ; but in the adverse case, no person could mistake the expression of his features.

Considering the imperfect state of knowledge and the situation of his country, he appears to be a prince of considerable talent. Amongst the chiefs and people of Palembang, he may with strict truth, be said to have been as much feared as respected, more respected than beloved. Those chiefs whom he favoured with his bounty and his confidence, were devotedly attached to his cause ; and those whom he had marked with his displeasure, were equally devoted to the fortunes of the reigning Sultaun.

The character of the Sultaun Najm al Deen is of a more unmeaning cast. He is a mild man, of a gentle and good disposition, constant and kind to his friends, and forgiving to those who offend him when they express a conviction of their error. By no means deficient in ability ;
but

but diffident in the exercise of his own judgment, over which those in his confidence had therefore much sway : his intentions were always good, and his conduct without disguise. Much beloved by his family and the chiefs in his confidence, his character did not impart to the respect which all were willing to shew him, that portion of awe, which is perhaps necessary to secure the good conduct of chiefs, especially under the circumstances in which he was placed by negotiations to his prejudice. He was also deficient in wealth, with which his brother the Ex-Sultaun abounded. He had, therefore, no means to encourage attachment by the extension of largesses, his revenues being only sufficient for his family and the due support of the dignity of his station. But he was considered generous and liberal, as far as his limited means would permit. That his mind received strong impressions of gratitude, sufficient proof has already been adduced. In short, he may be described as a benevolent and good man ; but wanting
sufficient

sufficient energy, as a prince, for the times and circumstances of the period to which this exposition refers.

The more commanding character of the deposed Sultaun, from this description of the Sultaun Najm al Deen, will be manifest. Joined to his superior manners, it gave him, in addition to the influence which wealth commands in all countries, decided advantages in a comparison with his brother. These, however, were by no means such as to justify the negotiations in his favour, in violation of a solemn treaty concluded with the reigning Sultaun, and which had been ratified by all the authorities of the British Government.

Previous to the deposed Sultaun's expulsion from the throne, the character of tyranny was attached to his government, not so much from any acts of his own, as from those of the Pangerang Ratoo, his eldest son. This youth, by his violent and profligate conduct towards a number of the inhabitants, had occasioned many enemies,

enemies, and brought much odium upon the government of his father. Wherever he appeared he carried terror and alarm ; but his assaults were chiefly directed, at night, against the quiet and peaceable inhabitants residing under the protection of the Dutch Factory. These atrocities he was enabled to commit with impunity, previous to the conquest of Java ; as the Dutch Resident had lost all influence in the councils of the Sultaun, the intercourse being cut off with Batavia, from whence, in consequence of the war and the blockade, he could obtain no support. The Dutch had, however, resolved to require from the Sultaun a redress of these wrongs, and securities for the controul of his son's conduct, whenever opportunity admitted the transport of troops to enforce their demand.

The Pangerang Rattoo, on his return with his father to Palembang, seemed to have profited by the lesson of adversity. But although he never resumed his licentious acts, I much fear, from observation
of

of this youth, that he was restrained by no sense of remorse or cultivation of better principle, but solely from fear of the consequences to himself.

The Resident having delivered over his command and office to the officer appointed to succeed him, the Pangerang Ratoo and the Pangerang Adie Mungala, the two eldest sons of the Sultaun Badr al Deen, were embarked according to treaty, to be conveyed to Batavia, where the Resident proceeded along with them to make report of these proceedings. As the Government of Java had conveyed no authority to the Resident to conclude any arrangement of the nature embraced by this treaty, and as no previous reports of the Resident respecting the tendency and progress of his negotiations admitted any conjecture of their leading to such a termination, it may be supposed that the Governor and Council, on receiving the intelligence of the occurrences at Palembang, were totally unprepared for such a result.

The

The Government immediately resolved to disavow the proceedings of their Resident, to annul their operation, and to take instant measures for the re-establishment of the Sultaun Najm al Deen on the throne of Palembang, from which he had been displaced by the mere act of [the Resident, contrary to his own inclination, and without any imputation of breach of his contract with the British Government, to the dignity and authority of which his whole conduct, since his installation by General Gillespie, had invariably manifested the utmost deference, respect, and gratitude.

A military force was immediately embarked, competent to carry into effect this resolution of Government, in case the Sultaun Badr al Deen, then in possession of the throne, should evince a disposition to contest his authority. A Commission was appointed, consisting of the Naval and Military Commanders and the Resident of Banca and Palembang, who had succeeded to that office. This Commission,
to

to which was attached a Political Agent, was entrusted with full powers to reinstate on the throne the Sultaun Ratoo Ahmed Najm al Deen ; and to make an arrangement for the residence and security of the Sultaun Badr al Deen, provided he offered no resistance to the execution of the purposes of Government.

The Commission, with the military force, reached Palembang on the night of the 13th of August 1813. On the following morning the Resident waited upon each of the two Sultauns, to announce that the Commission would deliver the resolution of Government upon the treaty formed by the late Resident in the afternoon, when the two Sultauns, with the members of their family, were requested to attend, that it might be authentically conveyed to them.

In the afternoon a sufficient European force was sent from the post established on the site of the former Dutch fort, which had been occupied since the departure of General Gillespie. This force was detached

tached across the river to occupy the ground near the Sultaun's palace ; close to which, but outside the walls, there was a large hall, where the Sultaun usually received the visits of the Resident. It was sufficiently capacious to allow his chiefs and attendants to sit around him, and here it had been previously settled that the Commissioners would meet the two Sultauns.

The Sultaun Badr al Deen received the Commissioners, and the Resident went to fetch the Sultaun Najm al Deen from his residence in the adjoining palace of the Pangerang Ratoo. The two sultauns and the Commissioners being duly arranged, the attendants were requested to withdraw, after which the proclamation was read to the Sultauns and their families, of which the following is a translation.

“ Whereas it has come to the know-
 “ ledge of the Honourable the Lieutenant
 “ Governor of Java and its dependencies,
 “ that the former Resident at Palembang
 “ has brought back to Palembang the
 “ former Sultaun, Mahmood Badr al
 “ Deen,

“ Deen, from the post he held at Marara-
 “ was, and has exalted him to the throne,
 “ by which act the treaty which had for-
 “ merly been concluded and confirmed
 “ between the English nation and the
 “ Sultaun Ratooh Ahmed Najm al Deen has
 “ been broken, without any orders or au-
 “ thority from the Lieutenant Governor
 “ of Java, for so doing; and furthermore
 “ without the consent or concurrence of
 “ the said Sultaun Ratooh Ahmed Najm al
 “ Deen : be it known, therefore, unto all
 “ persons, that the Lieutenant Governor
 “ of Java does not acknowledge nor admit
 “ the acts which the former Resident has
 “ done in this case ; neither will he know,
 “ nor will he acknowledge any other Sul-
 “ taun in Palembang, than the Sultaun
 “ Ratooh Ahmed Najm al Deen, who had
 “ been confirmed upon the throne.

“ But as the former Sultaun, Mahmood
 “ Badr al Deen, has placed faith and con-
 “ fidence in the English flag, for this
 “ reason the Lieutenant Governor of Java
 “ will shew him every consideration, and
 “ afford

“ afford him every possible assistance and
 “ protection, so long as he does not op-
 “ pose the authority and title of the Sul-
 “ taun Ratoo Ahmed Najm al Deen, nor
 “ disturb the peace of the country.

“ Commissioners are accordingly sent
 “ to Palembang, with due powers and
 “ authority to carry into effect the intent
 “ of this proclamation, and to reinstate
 “ the Sultaun Ratoo Ahmed Najm al
 “ Deen on the throne of Palembang, ac-
 “ cording to former treaty.

“ Given at Batavia, the fourth day of
 “ August 1813, or seventh of the moon
 “ Shaubun 1228.”

A copy of this proclamation was then delivered to each Sultaun.

The Sultaun Badr al Deen heard it read with evident chagrin, but with dignified composure; and I may say, that the Commissioners, one and all, commiserated him, and admired the calm, though acute feeling, he manifested upon the occasion. He was assured that Government would afford him protection, and

every means in their power to render his residence comfortable and respectable within the Palembang country, or, if he preferred it, in any part of the British territories. He was, of course, required to give possession of his fort to the British troops, until he could arrange his removal from the palace; for which he was allowed an interval of three days; at the end of which, the fort and palace were delivered over to the Sultaun Najm al Deen, who in the meanwhile had proclaimed over the country his resumption of the sovereignty.

The Commissioners had intimated to the Sultaun Badr al Deen that the sum of 200,000 dollars, which the former Resident had received on the part of Government, would not be retained, and that his two sons, who had arrived at Batavia as hostages, would be sent back by an early opportunity.

A new treaty was then concluded with the Sultaun Najm al Deen, in which it will be observed that stipulations were
made

made for the comfort and security of the Ex-Sultaun, Badr al Deen, under the protection of the British Government. The sum of 100,000 dollars was paid to the reigning Sultaun, in satisfaction of all claims he might advance by the second article of the former treaty, by which a portion of the revenues of Banca were to be reserved for his benefit, but from which hitherto he had received nothing, as the expenses of the island had exceeded the revenue. This article of the former treaty was therefore annulled and omitted in that now framed, of which a translation is given in the Appendix, No. II.

On the flight of the Ex-Sultaun from Palembang, on appearance of the armament under General Gillespie, he had carried with him the regalia of his office. Although the Government had confirmed the Ex-Sultaun in the possession of all the treasures he had brought down with him from Mararawas, the reigning Sultaun considering the articles which constituted the regalia as the property of the state,

to be held by the Sultaun in exercise of the sovereignty, submitted his claim to these articles, and the necessity of his possession of them, as the insignia of his authority, proper to be displayed on particular occasions. The Ex-Sultaun having refused the application of the Resident for their delivery to the reigning Sultaun, the question was referred by him to the Government of Batavia.

The Sultaun at this time sending ambassadors to Batavia, to return thanks to Government for the marks of support and friendship of which he had received such full evidence, gave instructions to his emissaries to lay before the Governor the nature of his pretensions to the regalia.

The Ex-Sultaun, in order, it is to be presumed, to keep up his own importance, and to weaken as much as possible the authority of the reigning Sultaun, was in the habit of inviting the chiefs to entertainments, and frequently on occasions when the Sultaun held his levees. Still encouraging the hopes of his restoration
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from the Supreme Government of Bengal, and instilling, through his partizans, that expectation in the minds of the chiefs. The Resident was under the necessity of carefully explaining to them the impossibility of such an event, and in order to command a proper sense of allegiance and respect from the chiefs to the reigning Sultaun, and to give their fears a contrary direction, he was under the necessity of advising the Sultaun to prohibit the visits of the chiefs to the Ex-Sultaun, without, in the first instance, obtaining his permission, which the Sultaun was advised to grant, as the form itself would operate as a sufficient check. The Resident informed the Ex-Sultaun that he had suggested such a measure, and that for the future the chiefs would be required to have the sanction of the reigning Sultaun previous to paying him any visits. The Ex-Sultaun was exceedingly mortified on learning this intention, and expressed his feeling of its effect by observing, “ if you make a hole with
E 4 “ a needle,

“ a needle, you can easily draw the thread
“ after it.”

The orders of Government soon after arrived, that the Ex-Sultaun should be required to deliver over the regalia to the reigning Sultaun. The Ex-Sultaun had denied that the articles in question constituted any such insignia, affirming that they were private property which had descended to him from his father, and positively resisted every argument of persuasion which the Resident for several days employed, to induce his submission to the order. At length the Resident was necessitated, in consequence of the failure of every possible intreaty and persuasion, to order the appearance of a military force, but before proceeding to the extremity of using coercive measures, he sent word to the Ex-Sultaun that the military were prepared to proceed across the river if he longer refused to conform to the requisition. Notwithstanding this warning, he still refused compliance. His answer was
no

no sooner received than the troops were embarked in boats, and proceeded with the Resident to the Ex-Sultaun's residence in the old fort surrounded by a wall. On their arrival he surrendered himself, and was taken to the military post, where his person was under restraint until he delivered up the regalia, when he was permitted to return to his residence, from which he had been three days absent. He had the satisfaction to find, on his going back, that his family and property had been carefully protected during his absence by the guard, which the Resident directed for that purpose, so that he had nothing to regret but the degradation to which he had uselessly exposed himself by his pertinacious resistance.

The chiefs having received from these proceedings a full conviction of the permanency of the reigning Sultaun's authority, began to think their interests connected with the duty they owed to him as their sovereign. Though the reigning Sultaun had not much wealth to distribute
in

in presents and dresses, as marks of his bounty, and on customary occasions of their marriage, he was liberal as far as his ability would admit. But he had all the patronage of the sovereignty to bestow, in grants of villages, of more or less value, on those who proved themselves worthy of his favour. The far greater part of the chiefs had at once yielded submission, and were confirmed, of course, in the estates they had enjoyed by the appointment of the former Sultaun. Others, who had indulged the expectation of the Ex-Sultaun's return to dominion, gradually attached themselves to the reigning Sultaun, who, after receiving proofs of their perfect allegiance, restored them to their villages. A few who had adhered to the fortunes of the Ex-Sultaun during the whole period of his flight, and whose attachment no doubt was sincere, were dispossessed of their tenures, which the reigning Sultaun of course divided amongst his truest friends. *

Thus

Thus the authority and dignity of the Sultaun Najm al Dcen had been firmly established, and the utmost tranquillity reigned throughout the Palembang territories. The Ex-Sultaun and his few faithful adherents kept up, as far as lay in their power, a discontent with the administration of the reigning prince, and gave occasional inquietude by complaints to the Resident. These were found to rest, generally, on vexatious grounds, or on some pretence affirmed by one party and denied by the other, and the merits of which it would have been as unimportant as impossible to ascertain. In this, as in all other countries, faction found food for discontent; but here it met with reward from a man who possessed more wealth than the Sovereign himself.

Nothing further worthy of notice occurred during the remaining three years of the British possession of the Island of Banca and of the factory at Palembang.

The two sons of the Ex-Sultaun were not detained many months at Batavia.

One,

One, the Pangerang Adi Mungala, had returned to Palembang at the time of the delivery of the regalia, he being a young man of very estimable character. The eldest, Pangerang Ratoo, of a contrary character, was not sent back until the end of the year.

A delay took place in the repayment of the 200,000 dollars, as it was referred to the Supreme Government whether this sum should be divided amongst the Sultaun and the two other brothers, the Pangerangs Adipattie and Ario, or given back to the Ex-Sultaun. The claims of the Sultaun and his younger brothers were advanced on these grounds.

By the Mahommedan law, which prevails at Palembang, in cases of descent, the estate of the deceased dying intestate is divided in proportions, giving two shares to each son and one to each daughter; but in case of the demise of the Sultaun, the whole inheritance falls to the eldest son, his successor, upon whom the duty devolves of making proper provision

provision for his brothers, who are therefore left in perfect dependence upon his generosity and good-will. Thus the Ex-Sultaun, at his accession on the death of his father, acquired the accumulated treasures of his forefathers.

Having been deposed and his brother elevated to the throne, the latter submitted, on behalf of himself and younger brethren, a claim to their *poosaka*, or portion of inheritance allotted by the Alcoran. They more particularly urged this pretension upon the sum which had been placed in the hands of Government.

The Sultaun, besides advancing this claim in point of law, urged the satisfaction of it as matter of expediency, as he very naturally observed that the Ex-Sultaun was already sufficiently wealthy for every purpose of splendour and comfort to his family and himself, and also to enable him to excite disaffection, the evils of which an addition to his preponderating means would only increase.

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The Sultaun further argued, that the Ex-Sultaun was now relieved from the participation of his brethren in the property which had descended to him, as the Ex-Sultaun would give them nothing but on conditions incompatible with their duty and allegiance to him the reigning Sultaun.

The Supreme Government having considered the subject of this reference, was of opinion that Government could not keep the amount, or any part, from the Ex-Sultaun, which he had delivered in consequence of a treaty which had been wholly set aside. Repayment to him was therefore ordered, together with interest for the time that had elapsed.

The Supreme Government also ordered such compensation for the regalia as the Ex-Sultaun might point out : but he would never consent to any other equivalent than articles of the same form, which could not possibly be granted.

Such was the general position of affairs in Palembang, at the period of the cession of the Island of Banca, in the month of
December

December 1816. It is evident that the preponderating riches of the Ex-Sultaun, (who possessed perhaps as much as the Sultaun and all the Chiefs put together), with the divided inclinations of the people in favour of his title by descent, would at any moment operate as an active stimulation for the subversion of the reigning Sultaun, whenever an opportunity was presented. Such would, especially, be the withdrawment from the reigning Sultaun of the support of the European power which gave stability and union to the chiefs under his authority.

The Netherlands Government, on receiving possession of the factory at Palembang, would be conscious of the full effect of their influence in the administration of the government of the Sultaun placed in authority by the British Government. They would therefore have best consulted the dignity and respectability of their own character, as well as their permanent interests, by an adherence to the policy of that Government, and merely preserving

preserving a commanding influence. This it was necessary to maintain for the efficient government of the island of Banca, and to protect the interests of Government in that possession ; to the improvement of which every effort and every means in the power of the Netherlands Government should have been directed, and of which, it was to be expected, the revenues and resources would prove it so well to merit.

The contiguity of the Island of Banca to the Palembang state, which had been the principal source of wealth to the Sultans of that country, and the close connexion of the principal inhabitants with that state, rendered it necessary, for a few years at least, that a proper influence should be preserved with the Sultaun in authority at Palembang.

The measures pursued at Palembang by the authorities of the Netherlands Government were certainly at variance with an equitable and just policy. These seem also to have been dictated, not so much by a desire to insult and degrade the
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the British Government (though the protest of Sir Stamford Raffles affords too just grounds to reason that such was their tendency) as by a motive certainly not more laudable, a desire to aid their pecuniary wants, by inviting the Ex-Sultaun to part with his treasures. The divisions of the principal chiefs into two parties served also to extend their authority over the internal government of Palembang.

To seize at one grasp a sum of money which would have required four years of honest and upright administration of Banca to acquire, was a temptation too alluring for their mercenary policy to resist. The object was too glittering, to allow any considerations of honour and dignity to stand in competition with its attainment.

It was evident, that the Ex-Sultaun would not part with his money but in remuneration for his return to sovereignty. But he had been deposed in consequence of the murder of their countrymen, who, on the faith of treaty and alliance, were residing in his capital and under his protection.

protection. This would occasion some hesitation : but the money was of much more weight, and such scruples of honor were thrown out of the scale. Also, as he had been deposed by the British Government, he would become the truer friend to the Dutch upon his restoration by them, and their oblivion of the fate of their countrymen.

To state the possible contemplations of the Netherlands Authorities in furtherance of this righteous end, they would perhaps commune one with another as follows. The present Sultaun was elevated to the throne by the British government, and he, poor weak man, allows the old-fashioned principle of gratitude for such favour to burthen his mind. Not adverting to the wiser examples of ourselves and of European statesmen, he has wickedly and foolishly avowed that he can never forget his obligations to the British government,* notwithstanding he is sensible

* Vide Sultaun of Palembang's letter to Sir Stamford Raffles.

sible of the extreme aversion with which we ever hear the name of that Government mentioned in the Eastern Seas. It is, therefore, necessary that we should contrive some reasons for his dethronement : cogent, or the contrary, is of little signification, when we have the power to do as we please.

We can easily devise some plausible pretext about the faults of his government. These we shall find all ready for our hearing, as soon as we manifest any disposition to aid the views of the Ex-Sultaun, the industry of whose partizans, with the circulation of his money, will collect all the discontent in accumulated evidence of wrongs endured from the administration of Najm al Deen. To this we can add a tale about the cruelty and oppression of forced labour and deliveries. To give greater countenance and plausibility to this nice little reason, we can also quote the example of Sir Stamford Raffles, who, finding such a system to have prevailed on the island of Java under the Dutch

government, *par excellence*, abolished it throughout the territories belonging to the British government, where he had a right and authority, as the delegates of the sovereign power, so to do. Therefore, *par excellence*, not with a view to benefit the country or the people, but to give a fair complexion to our insidious designs, we will abolish this system in a country, with the internal government of which we have no right or authority whatever to interfere; but which will very opportunely create confusion* in Palembang, by the subversion of all its ancient customs. There is also the *Tiban* and *Tookan*, another source of revenue to the Sultaun which is of ancient right, and to which we can affix the epithets of *oppressive* and *tyrannical*.† Therefore, with the same pretext of humanity, and regard for the people, on our tongues, but with our eyes fixed on the Ex-Sultaun's wealth, we can find

* Vide Sultaun Najm al Deen's letter to Sir Stamford Raffles.

† Vide Mr. Muntinghe's reply to Sir T. Stamford Raffles.

find another cause of quarrel with the Sultaun Najm al Deen.

He will, in all probability, resist our orders for the abolition of these feudal rights claimed by himself and his chiefs. If, on the contrary, he does not resist, but attempts to execute this violation of all the ancient customs of his country, his chiefs certainly will prevent him; so that we shall be enabled, at any rate, to urge his disaffection to our government as the cause of his removal from the throne.

It is very true, that by no treaty, either of former or of present times, can we establish any plea or pretence to justify a violation of the established laws and customs which have prevailed for ages in that country, and by which the rights, privileges, and duties of all ranks and classes are ascertained and fixed. We can, however, state our reasons so plausibly upon paper, “ that we announce to “ the poor inhabitants the abolition of “ their *Tiban* and *Tookan* of every kind “ of forced labour and delivery of pro-

“ duce, and above all of the abominable
 “ custom of enslaving, not only indivi-
 “ duals, but whole families and generati-
 “ ons of them, for the trifling amount of a
 “ civil debt.”* Such sounds will strike
 in such sweet harmony and concord the
 ear of all those ignorant of the concerns,
 the customs and the habits of the people
 of this state, that the violence and ini-
 quity of our real intentions will never
 once appear. Liberal men will not ques-
 tion whether we possess a right which will
 justify such an interference in the internal
 affairs of a country never under our con-
 trol, and to govern which we have no
 manner of title; but viewing only the
 humanity we set forth, to delude them,
 they will qualify the means by the accom-
 plishment of the end.

It is true “ it was, and ever will be,
 “ the glory of the late Lieutenant Go-
 “ vernor of Java” to have proclaimed
 an amelioration of the Dutch system
 which prevailed throughout those terri-
 tories.

* Vide Mr. Muntinghe's reply to Sir T. Stamford Raffles.

teries. The Dutch nation being extinct, the British Authorities were also competent to make arrangements, in perpetuity, for the government of the territories which became annexed to the British dominions. But the new system introduced at Java was strictly confined to those lands which belonged to the British Government, and the Native Princes, who enjoyed the rights of the internal government of their own provinces, had those rights respected.

But even in the territories of Java subject to the entire authority and controul of the British Government, the new system was introduced with caution and moderation, and with due consideration to those whose interests might be affected by the change.*

But we, the Netherlands' Authorities, *par excellence*, setting at defiance every principle of moderation, justice, and equity, the law of nations or any other law,

* Vide Raffles' History of Java, vol. ii. Appendix D and L.

law, but that of our own interested purpose, will lay violent hands upon the territories of Palembang. We will also insult the British nation by the imprisonment of the Sultaun, from whom they had obtained the Island of Banca, and which their government was silly enough to deliver to us without any stipulations, but in full confidence that we should not abuse the authority which thus reverted to us.

The conduct of the Netherlands' Authorities towards the Sultaun and the Palembang state, as above fairly deduced from the communications of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, can only be compared to the worst acts of the worst government of France, during the worst period of the French revolution. Impelled by the motive which actuated those fiends, the acquisition of plunder in the neighbouring states, they have, under the same mask of humanity and benefit to the people, employed means the most unjustifiable, unlawful, and outrageous; taking advantage

tage of one faction to destroy and lay waste the rights and interests of the whole, for the furtherance of their own mercenary and aggrandizing projects.

Without any regard to the honour and character of their nation, they have expelled and imprisoned one Sultaun, whom they were bound to respect on every principle of gratitude to the British nation, as well as from just conception of the obligations of treaties. They have assumed a right of governing a country, which was from time immemorial governed by its own Sultaun and princes, who have violated no treaties and infringed no obligations of a dependent ally. They have raised to the throne the Sultaun under whose rule the murder of their countrymen took place; and it is said they have received 500,000 dollars as the price of their blood, and remuneration for their own degradation and dishonour. They have endeavoured, as the climax of wrong, to make this Sultaun the instrument of their rapacious designs. Thinking
that

that they had extracted the sting, and by seizing his treasures had taken from him all power and means of resistance, they have believed that he would submit to every project of ignominy to himself and injury to his country.

But they have experienced, that though he would part with his money to recover lost power and dignity, he would not compromise his honour, nor become a base instrument of those whom he had bought to accomplish their vile purposes. These were, the subversion of his authority, the degradation and ruin of his chiefs and all the respectable people of his country, and the subjection of the whole to their unprincipled and remorseless schemes of aggrandizement.

The errors of a British Resident became the model of perfection to these lawless statesmen. The Sultaun Badr al Deen put confidence in him and in the Government by which he was deputed. Though he was aware the British Resident was acting without authority from his Government,

ment, he knew, that his motives, and intentions were pure and guileless. He justly thought, also, that although the British Government might disavow and impugn the acts of their Resident, they would not allow the confidence, which he had reposed to operate to his prejudice : he had, therefore, no hesitation in placing his sons in the hands of the British Government. Therefore the Netherlands' Authorities, with the worst designs, concluded that he would confide his sons in their hands, and thereby they would be able to consign them to perpetual imprisonment, or to secure his consent to the ruin of himself, his family, his chiefs, and his country.

The demand of the Netherlands' Government upon the Sultaun whom they had raised to the throne for the delivery of his sons, as hostages for his performance of stipulations which were to seal the sacrifice of his country, much to the honour of that Sultaun, the chiefs, and the people

people of Palembang, excited an undivided sentiment of indignation against the faithless and treacherous purposes of the Netherlands' Authorities, and roused in them a determined resistance of the projected measures which were to involve them in calamity and ruin.

That resistance, on two successful occasions, has shewn to the wicked Administrators of the Netherlands' power, that a people naturally disposed to ease and tranquillity can be awakened to a sense of wrongs past endurance, and are capable of exertion in defence of their just privileges, their property, and their laws.

And who is the man, selected by the Netherlands' Authorities, through whose agency they committed these flagrant outrages? Why, Mr. Muntinghe!

He *was* a Member of the Council of the British Government on Java, where he had the opportunity of learning the language of benevolence and justice,

justice, of which, if we may judge by his recent practice, he but imperfectly acquired either the meaning or the sentiment.

He it was who was so exasperated, and justly so, on receiving at Batavia the tidings of the murder of his countrymen at Palembang. Yet it was he who was so active in instigating the British Government against the authors of that massacre ; he it is, also, who has received, on behalf of the Netherlands' Government, 500,000 dollars as a set-off for that atrocious deed, and in recompence of every injustice of his employers, impiously directed to subvert the Sultaun who had been raised to the throne in revenge of the fate of his countrymen, by the councils of that humane Government of which he could once pride himself in being a member, and not an agent of injustice.

Mr. Muntinghe, in his letter to Sir T. S. Raffles, says " that he relied on the
 " natural force of truth to convince the
 " Sultaun

“ Sultaun Najm al Deen of his wrongs,
 “ and of the acts of hostility which he
 “ had committed, or allowed to be com-
 “ mitted by his subjects, as well on our
 “ own territories as on those of our
 “ allies.”* Very pretty phraseology, Mr.
 Muntinghe: very good “ springes to
 “ catch woodcocks,” and very worthy of
 the cause you have espoused. I have al-
 ready given a very just interpretation of
 the indefinite wrongs.

With respect to any acts of hostility
 committed or permitted by the Sultaun
 Najm al Deen against the territories of the
 Netherlands' Government, I will stake my
 character and existence on the assertion
 that any such imputation is groundless and
 malevolent.

It carries on the very face of it a gross
 inconsistence. Who are the allies? ex-
 cepting Mr. Muntinghe had already made
 an ally of the Ex-Sultaun (and he will not
 venture to quote him, as he had no terri-
 tories,

* Vide Mr. Muntinghe's letter to Sir Stamford Raffles.

tories, although he had abundance of wealth to excite cupidity), I know of no allies with whom the Sultaun or his people could possibly come in contact. I beg pardon; the Palembang territories come in contact with Bencoolen, which belongs to the ally of the Netherlands' Government, *viz.* the English. I would as readily believe that the Sultaun Najm al Deen had committed hostilities against the English at Bencoolen, as I will believe that Mr. Muntinghe can establish any act of hostility against the Netherlands' Government. It is all an unworthy subterfuge, intended to vindicate their acts in Europe, by imposing on the credulity of those who may be ignorant of the relations of the Palembang state; or to give some semblance of a rightful proceeding, for argument, to those who may be disposed to lend an ear of willing belief.

Very possibly a trick may have been contrived by the Ex-Sultaun (who is very capable

capable of such an artifice) to commit some outrage upon Banca by people hired for that purpose at Palembang, to give the Dutch a plausible pretext for complaint, at least, against the reigning Sultaun. But such a trick could not have imposed upon Mr. Muntinghe : he is a man of too much sense. But he might allow it to be put upon him, and it might pass with those who had not the same means nor the same sense to detect it. Such a scheme would come very opportunely to assist the phraseology and the unrighteous purposes of Mr. Muntinghe.

Then, to shuffle away all proof of inquiry into such acts of hostility, we have the following very prettily pointed sentence from Mr. Muntinghe :

“ Of the facts constituting such a
 “ breach of faith (on the part of the Sul-
 “ taun), they, the Netherlands’ Govern-
 “ ment, are naturally, as an independent
 “ power, the sole judge in this quarter of
 “ the earth, and it would be highly im-
 “ proper

“ proper to enter into any justification of
 “ them.”*

Mr. Muntinghe will allow that I had good opportunities of studying the characters, both of the Sultaun Najm al Deen whom he has deposed, and of the Ex-Sultaun whom he has restored. I may be permitted to say, that I know intimately the Sultaun Najm al Deen; and am persuaded of his deference to the government of Java by whatever power administered, whether English or Dutch. He knew that the alliance of that power was the only balance he had against the influence of his brother's (the Ex-Sultaun's) preponderance of riches, and the impressions in his favour as the rightful sovereign by descent. That that power had only to declare their favourable designs towards the Ex-Sultaun, to wrest his sovereignty from him in a moment and give it to his brother, he was well aware. Will any man be credulous enough to believe, that, thus circumstanced, he would

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commit

* Vide Mr. Muntinghe's Letter to Sir Stamford Raffles.

commit any act of hostility, direct or indirect, against the power to which he looked for the support of his dignity and authority? I do not hesitate to express my conviction, from my knowledge of his character, that he would not, though he had been independent of the alliance of that power. For the truth of these observations I appeal to my predecessor, and to every other English officer or gentleman who had any knowledge whatever of the two Sultauns, whether it were possible that the reigning Sultaun, Najmal Deen, should commit or sanction any hostility against the territories of the Government of Java. As for their allies, excepting the English, I do not suppose the Sultaun could have named one of them; at least he must have made most diligent, and after all useless search, to find any within two hundred miles of Palembang: and Mr. Muntinghe will not have the assurance even to hint that he could equip an hostile mission to such a distance.

I have thus, I hope, refuted, to the satisfaction of every candid and impartial mind,
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the reasons alleged by Mr. Muntinghe, on the part of his Government. I have shown the total impossibility of their resting a vindication of their measures towards the Sultaun Najm al Deen on any acts of hostility committed or allowed by him, or any hostile intention. Where, then, shall we find any shadow of justice in the extravagant demand upon that unhappy Sultaun, for the partition of his country with the Sultaun Badr al Deen, or his dethronement on a refusal of compliance?

But whilst we are reflecting on the injustice of the Netherlands' Authorities towards the unfortunate Sultaun, individually, let us not lose sight of their rapacious designs upon the whole of the Palembang state.

Let us look at their plan of partitioning the country, of separating the Sultaun from the chiefs, the chiefs from the people, and the subversion of all the ancient laws and customs of the country, with the sole manifest intent of creating general confusion, distress, and ruin, and, in the

wreck of the state, making plunder and property of the country.

Are we to be told, that the Netherlands' Authorities on Java are the sole judges of the propriety of these transactions in that quarter of the earth? Yet we have an unquestionable right to require some explanation of proceedings which affect a country, under the sovereignty of a Native Prince, whose territories adjoin our possession at Bencoolen, and which are entirely detached and insulated from the island of Java, where the superior sovereignty and rights of the Netherlands' Government may be clearly acknowledged, free from any interference whatever of any other power.

The question of our right and our interest to require justice and equity to be observed by the Netherlands' Government towards the Palembang state, is quite distinct from any matter affecting the Native Princes of Java, with whom we may have no concern; and the reasoning advanced in the protest of Sir Stamford Raffles, in maintenance of this right, is indisputable: to that, therefore, I shall refer.

The

The relations of the Dutch nation and their East-India Company with the state of Palembang were regulated by treaties and commercial contracts, all acknowledging the sovereign authority of the Sultaun over the country ; and the Sultaun was always peremptory in guarding against interference in the internal administration of his territories. The authority of the Dutch was confined strictly within the precincts of their fort and factory, and the protection of their trade. The fort included a space within its walls rather more than four and a half English acres, it being nearly a square, the sides of which were about four hundred and fifty feet in length. The liberties of the factory extended to forty pikes' length, or four hundred feet in every direction about the walls of the fort. These limits were better defined by the natural boundaries of three streams, which run on the two sides and the rear, the front being towards the main river. These streams were called the Soongy Tanga Panjang, the Soongy Loompoor, which joined the Soongy-Aor

to the rear. These treaties and compacts were dissolved when the Dutch nation no longer existed as a political and independent society.*

Whatever pretension, therefore, the Netherlands' Government might advance to a connexion with the Palembang state, from the reversion of the government of Java to their authority, must consequently rest upon the treaties existing between the Palembang state and the Government of Java, as conveyed over to them.

But whether we revert to former treaties with the Dutch nation, or admit them to the treaties existing between the Government of Java as delivered over to them, the conduct of the Netherlands' Government towards the Palembang state will appear equally exceptionable and odious.

The security and independence of all states would be established on a very frail basis indeed, if, under the pretence of improving the laws and bettering the condition

* Vide chap. 13, book ii. of Vattel's Law of Nations.

condition of the people, a stronger power be permitted to take upon itself the assumption of administering the internal government and affairs of a weaker state. Such a doctrine would suit the purposes and the principles of a set of demagogues ; but the Netherlands' Authorities should recollect, that their nation has been established upon the success of the very contrary maxims, and that their colonies were restored to them on the faith of their adherence to the injunctions of a just and equitable policy.

To make a summary of their atrocities :

They have deposed the friend and ally of a nation to whom they owe, not only their own existence, but all the benefits they have derived from the restoration of the valuable possessions in India.

They have elevated a man in his place, to whom had been attached the responsibility of the murder of their countrymen.

They have received a bribe of 500,000 dollars for this iniquitous act : and by the commission of it, and in their progress towards it, have invaded the pro-

perty, the laws, customs, and independence of the state, which they have endeavoured to bring under their own subjection by violence and fraud.

They have been guilty of all these untoward acts without one solitary reason connected with their own security, but solely instigated by their mercenary interests and their views of aggrandizement.

Let us now take a short view of the question as it has appeared before Parliament.

In reply to the Marquis of Lansdowne's speech for the production of papers connected with this subject, Earl Bathurst states, as one of his arguments, that when Java was conquered by us from the French, "the Dutch" (who, by the by, were not then a nation) "had an establishment on Banca, which would have been replaced, so that, consistently with the treaty, both places (*i.e.* Banca and Cochin) would have been in their power."

His Lordship here labours under a great mistake. The Dutch never had an establishment

establishment on Banca. Before the cession of that Island to Great Britain, the government and affairs thereof were uninterruptedly administered by the Sultaun of Palembang.

Whatever may be the strength of his Lordship's argument, or of the inferences from it, on this ground, therefore, it rests on a false foundation.

The interests of the Dutch, when they were a nation, will be clearly understood by the following article of the Dutch contract with the Sultaun of Palembang, to which I should give the date somewhere between 1790 and 1800. I have no means of knowing it, except as I have ascertained the most productive period of the island of Banca under the Sultaun's government, to which this article evidently bears reference.

Art. 4. " As it is the wish of the
 " Honourable Company to give satisfac-
 " tion to the Sultaun, and a token of
 " their attachment (though not bound by
 " former contracts), they will not, as by
 " former contracts, receive only the
 " 30,000-

“ 30,000 peculs of 125 lbs. each, but
 “ also all the *tin* which the island of
 “ Banca, or other territories of his High-
 “ ness, may produce.

“ The Sultaun and the Pangerang Rattoo
 “ also engage, on their part, to deliver
 “ not only the said 30,000 peculs of tin of
 “ 125 lbs. each (provided no unforeseen
 “ circumstances occur, which the said
 “ princes will duly communicate to the
 “ authorities at Batavia and Palembang),
 “ unmixed and pure to the Honourable
 “ Company, to the exclusion of all other
 “ nations, but also all the tin which is
 “ yearly dug on the island of Banca, or
 “ in the territories under the authority of
 “ his Highness, after the following man-
 “ ner.

“ The first 20,000 peculs at the former
 “ agreed price of thirteen and one-third
 “ rix-dollars, or ten Spanish dollars, for
 “ each pecul at Palembang, and fifteen
 “ rix-dollars at Batavia.

“ The following 1,000 peculs for fifteen
 “ rix-dollars at Palembang, and seven-
 “ teen rix-dollars at Batavia.

“ But

“ But if the court at Palembang de-
 “ livers 35,000 peculs or more annually,
 “ the Company will pay fifteen rix-dollars
 “ at Palembang, and seventeen rix-dollars
 “ at Batavia, for each pecul, from the first
 “ to the last inclusive. Which advance
 “ of price on the first 20,000 peculs de-
 “ livered, either at Palembang or Bata-
 “ via, shall be paid on receipt of the last
 “ delivery completing 35,000 peculs or
 “ more.

“ On the contrary, the Sultaun and
 “ the Pangerang Ratoo engage, on their
 “ part, to allow the Honourable Com-
 “ pany a deduction of one rix-dollar per
 “ pecul on the actual delivered quantity,
 “ in case the whole amount of the year’s
 “ delivery of tin should fall short of
 “ 20,000 peculs.”

There is nothing in this article to ques-
 tion the sovereignty of the Sultaun of
 Palembang, nor a tittle of evidence where-
 on to conjecture an establishment of the
 Dutch on Banca: Earl Bathurst has,
 therefore, misconceived the matter, or he
 has received wrong information from some
 interested

interested Dutchman. The fact is simply as I have stated it: they never had an establishment on Banca.

Earl Bathurst further says, that Sir Stamford Raffles was vested with no political authority whatever at Bencoolen. By this must be meant, that in a case of the honour and interests of the British nation being attacked, and requiring the immediate interposition of the British Authorities, he is to be a calm spectator, neither employing his hands nor his pen to avert the injury, but patiently awaiting a reference to the Supreme Government to which he is subordinate, at a distance of one thousand eight hundred miles, with all the chances incident to the conveyance of his report and the reply across the ocean.

Every Englishman would, I think, in such case, and circumstanced as he was, decide with Sir Stamford Raffles, that he had at least authority to protest against any such acts.

At any rate, whether Sir Stamford Raffles had or had not the authority, it is fortunate

fortunate for the English character that he acted as he did. Had he quietly looked on, I am persuaded that the Sultaun, the chiefs, and all the thinking people of Palembang, would have concluded that we had connived at and abetted the aggressions of the Netherlands' Government, and we should have had the credit of sharing in the plunder. From any imputation of that sort, we owe it to Sir Stamford Raffles that we are relieved.

Of the negotiations with the Netherlands' Government, mentioned by Earl Bathurst, we have heard nothing further.

Are we then to permit the Netherlands' Government to over-run the native states on Sumatra? This is a question that bears no analogy to the case of those native chieftains in the Eastern Archipelago, over whom the former Dutch Government may have exercised the prerogatives of sovereignty.

The Island of Sumatra is nearly as large as Great Britain and Ireland together. Are we to permit ourselves to be
shut

shut out from intercourse with such a country, in deference “to the only independent power in that quarter of the earth,” as Mr. Muntinghe styles the Netherlands’ Government? If so, we had better give them up Bencoolen at once, as it will soon be construed as a feudatory possession of the sovereign lord of Sumatra, the King of the Netherlands.

Lord Holland justly argued, on the occasion above alluded to, that “if Lord Bathurst meant to contend that it was just to deliver over to another power a sovereign with whom we had recently made a treaty, such an assertion would be in direct contradiction with the law of nations.” His Lordship further observed, “that it might perhaps be thought by the leading statesmen in some other countries, that a great advantage was to be obtained by lowering the character and credit of Great Britain. It might suit their policy to say to nations in remote parts of the globe, ‘You see what you gain by entering into agreements with the English :

“ ‘ English : whatever stipulations they
 “ ‘ may make with you, they are certain
 “ ‘ to sacrifice you to their general sys-
 “ ‘ tem of policy, whenever they make
 “ ‘ peace with their neighbours in Eu-
 “ ‘ rope.’ ”

This has been evidently the language of Mr. Muntinghe to the Sultaun of Palembang.*

Our honour and our duty, therefore, are equally concerned with our interest, in insisting that the Palembang state shall retain its own laws, under its own independent government of the Sultaun and princes. We shall thereby maintain our faith and character, not only at Palembang but in all the states of Sumatra, and we shall prevent the too near contiguity to our possessions at Bencoolen, of an aspiring, insidious, and unscrupulous neighbour.

We shall have nothing more than we always had: he will have nothing less.

Our relative situations on Sumatra will be such as they have been established by the

* Vide Letter to Sir Stamford Raffles from the Sultaun,

the Convention of 1814. We ought not to submit to inferiority; and more especially ought we to guard against those relations being disturbed, in a manner that will attach to us a dereliction of our reputation and our honour.*

* A translation of the Deed of Cession of the Islands of Banca and Billiton to Great Britain, in further confirmation of our rights and duties, will be found on reference to the Appendix. It is taken from the original deed; and that no person may dispute its authenticity, a copy thereof is added in the Roman character, that those who possess a knowledge of the Malayan language may have their own interpretation of its contents.



A Map
of the
ISLAND OF BILLITON
Sketched from Description
of the Native by
M. H. COURT.



DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT

PALEMBANG.

THE kingdom of Palembang, which amongst the native states of Sumatra holds the first rank, occupies the portion of that island to the southward of the equator, which is included between the latitudes of 2° and $4^{\circ} 30'$. It is bounded, on the north and east, by the Straits of Banca; on the south, by the Lampoong country; on the west and south-west, by the ranges of mountains which separate that state from Bencoolen and its dependencies; and on the north-west, its limits adjoin the territories of the Sultaun of Jambee.

The principal river, which is called the *Moosee*, upon which the town of Palembang

bang is situated, runs through the whole extent of the country in a general direction from south-west to north-east, having its source in the range of hills near to Bencoolen. With this river all the others have confluence, and the accumulated waters are disembogued into the Straits of Banca by four different mouths, which, under the names of the Sali, the Opan, the Soensang, and the Pontian, diverge from the main river at different points below the town of Palembang. The Sali being the eastern, and the Pontian the western mouth, or kwala, so called by the natives.

The Soensang branch affords the most ready and the safest navigable communication to the town of Palembang, which, by the winding course of the river, is about seventy miles distant from the sea. Monopin Hill, on the western extreme of Banca, bears nearly north-east from the Soensang entrance, whence it is distant about eight leagues, and from which, excepting in thick hazy weather,
it

it is clearly discernible. The village of Soensang is near the mouth of the river, and is placed under the controul of a Demang, whose duty it is to send a report to the Sultaun of Palembang of the arrival of every vessel of any consequence. From him pilots may be obtained to conduct vessels or boats up to Palembang.

The town of Palembang is only accessible on the north and eastern sides, by the medium of the rivers abovementioned; the whole coast of Sumatra, along the Straits of Banca, presenting nothing to the eye but a low flat of interminable swamps and jungle. Very few villages intervene from Soensang to Palembang, the banks of the river on each side generally presenting the same forbidding aspect as the sea coast, so that a stranger, until the town of Palembang opens to his view, might suppose that he was traversing the river of an uninhabited country.

From Palembang to the sea, by the Soensang branch, the river is navigable

for vessels of the largest burthen. In some parts it is narrow, but generally of a noble breadth. About four miles, bearing nearly due north from the mouth of the river, a bar must be crossed to enter the channel of deep water through which to navigate to the river, the channel on each side having shallow water. At the highest spring tides the bar has never more than three fathoms water upon it, so that the larger ships are obliged to anchor outside the bar.

Vessels making for the Palembang river direct their course to the bar; and from the direction it is proper to cross it, in order to enter the channel for Soensang, the mouth of that branch of the river appears nearly closed by projecting land, the Pontian mouth at the same time exposing a wide and open view of that river; the latter is therefore frequently mistaken for the navigable branch, and vessels committed to this stream have had their progress intercepted, and been necessitated to return.

The

The river through its whole extent is much infested with alligators, which are very daring and voracious. The pantjallangs, or river passage boats, which are of various dimensions according to the rank of the owners, and which, being cut from the solid trunk of a tree, are almost on a level with the surface of the water, expose the men who paddle them very much to the attacks of these monsters of the river. Some of the pantjallangs belonging to the Sultaun and his family are no less than forty-two feet in length and ten or twelve in the greatest breadth, requiring twenty-four men to paddle them, who are ranged on each side. The trees from which these boats are formed are cut in the forests near the mountains, whence they are brought to Palembang with considerable labour. The Sultaun, who was very anxious at all times to manifest respect and kindness to the British Resident, always sent one of these boats to the mouth of the river to convey him up to Palembang when he came from Banca to

visit his Highness, and also to convey him back. I have seen, on two occasions, alligators raise their heads out of the water near the side of the boat, in the attempt to take one of the paddlers out of this large description of pantjallang. The boatmen, having plenty of room to move away, escaped their grasp ; which was checked also by the height of the side of the boat from the water, though in this large pantjallang the deck at the centre, upon which the paddlers sit cross-legged, did not exceed nine or ten inches above the surface of the water. From the smaller description of pantjallangs no less than seventeen paddlers were carried away by alligators during the time I was at Palembang. Two gentlemen, coming up the river to visit me in one of the smaller boats, had provided themselves with a basket of provisions for their journey. On their way an alligator raised himself from the water ; the paddlers shrieked and fortunately escaped, but the basket of provisions became the prey to his voracity.

These

These pantjallangs, which are peculiar to Palembang, are very commodious and quick in their passage. That above-mentioned, belonging to the Sultaun, had a space covered at the stern by a light covering, made of matted nipah leaves, sufficient to shelter the steersman, to allow a recess for sleeping, and a space in front to accommodate eight or ten persons sitting with a table in the middle.

The prow biduk is another kind of river boat, similar to the pantjallang boat, with its sides raised by additional planks. They are used for conveying baggage, and as a safer passage boat in stormy weather.

The Sultaun has a state boat of this description, called the prow naga, which has a large carved head of the fabulous dragon called Naga.

The distinctions of rank are preserved in the equipment of these boats with as much care as the colour of the payung, which here, as in other Malayan states, varies according to the several gradations from the Sultaun.

The town of Palembang is formed on both sides of the river Moosec, which is there about twelve hundred feet in breadth. Some of the houses are erected upon large rafts of timber, anchored near the banks, and which rise and fall with the tide; behind these are houses built upon piles of timber, and which at high water become insulated; at the back of these again a third row of houses are built on the land, along the banks, and on the sides of the several small streams which join the main river.

The palace of the Sultaun is a magnificent structure, built of brick, and surrounded by a strong wall. The houses of the principal chiefs are commodious and comfortable, though they have no pretensions to elegance. Many of these, as well as the houses of the wealthy Arabs and Chinese, have tiled roofs, supported by strong pillars of timber, and are divided into rooms by wooden divisions of plank.

The houses of the inferior classes are built of the light materials which are used for habitations in other Malayan countries.

Not

Not more than three or four houses have any communication one with another, excepting by boats. This does not proceed from a necessity arising out of the nature of the country, so much as from the habit and inclination of the people to have ready access to the conveniences of the river. The principal inhabitants, who have their houses generally built upon the banks of the river, have piers constructed to the distance of low water mark, in order that they may at all times command uninterrupted communication with their boats.

From one extreme to the other, the town may be estimated to extend at least three miles along each bank, and to contain a population of nearly twenty-five thousand souls, including about one thousand Arabs and Chinese.

The foreign trade from the town is carried on by the Chinese, Arabs, and natives, to Java, Malacca, Banca, Penang or Prince of Wales' Island, Lingen, Rhio, and the eastern coast of Borneo. Two large junks from China, one from Among, the
other

other from Canton, and a small one from Siam, arrive annually at Palembang with the N. W. monsoon in January, and depart with the S. E. monsoon in August.

The principal imports consist of woollen cloths, of which every man who has the means is anxious to have a dress ; English chintzes and coloured cottons, their choice of which is principally directed by the pattern ; Bengal and Madras piece goods ; copper, iron, and steel, with manufactured articles of these metals ; teas, drugs, China silks, nankeens, earthenware, salt, and Java cloths.

The exports consist of Palembang produce, in pepper, cotton, rattans, beeswax, dragons' blood, benzoin, gambir, elephants' teeth, gold dust, kayoo laker, and birds' nests in small quantities.

Of the produce of Palembang, pepper, which is there called sahan, as also the common name of ladah, may be computed at fifteen thousand peculs annually, which was formerly sold at three dollars per pecul of one hundred and twenty-five Dutch pounds.

Of

Of cotton there are two kinds, the common called kapas, and the silk cotton, which is called kapok. The latter is only used for stuffing beds and pillows, which purpose it answers exceedingly well, being very soft and elastic. The produce of cotton has been about four thousand peculs, sold raw from two to four dollars per pecul, and cleaned from eight to ten.

Rattans, about one hundred thousand, of one hundred to each bundle. The first sort, three fathoms long, sells at seventeen dollars per bundle; inferior at ten, twelve, and fourteen.

Dragons' blood, called jaranang, and benzoin, called kaminian, sell from fourteen to twenty-five and thirty dollars per pecul.

Elephants' teeth, if two to a pecul, sell for eighty dollars; if four, sixty dollars, and so on.

Kayoo laker is exported in considerable quantities by the China junks. It is used by the Chinese for burning in their houses and temples.

Gold

Gold dust varies in price according to its quality. The inferior sort is called *mooda* or young, the most valuable being termed *tooah* or old. The former when melted into bars has a whitish dull cast; the latter bearing a brilliant yellow appearance.

The following list exhibits the several varieties found at Palembang, and the prices of each quality.

Name of Place whence brought.	Of what State.	Descrip- tion.	Price of each Sort, per Tale of 2½ Dollars weight. Dollars.
Leemon ..	Sumatra	Palembang .. Old	30, 31, and 32.
Teeko		Ditto Young ..	22½ and 23.
Ditto		Ditto Old	26 and 27.
Kamareeng		Ditto Young ..	13 and 14.
Ditto		Old Old	17 and 18.
Jambee ..		Jambee Old	30, 31, and 32.
Siak		Siak Old	30, 31, and 32.
Acheen ..		Acheen Old	30, 31, and 32.
Pahan		Malacca Old	30, 31, and 32.
Selako	Borneo	Sambas..... Young ..	23 and 24.
Laro		Ditto Old	26 and 27.

The Sultaun receives a certain amount from every vessel or prow entering the port

port of Palembang, according to its measurement.

A large China junk pays about fifteen hundred dollars, a smaller one thousand dollars; and the Siamese junks, which are not of greater burthen than eighty tons, pay about seventy-five dollars. The anchorage dues being paid, the cargo is free from all other imposition of duties.

Of all the Malayan ports, Palembang has been and is considered, by all native and European foreigners, the safest and best regulated. Once entering the river, the smallest prow, with ordinary vigilance and precaution, will be secure from violence or plunder. Outside the river, small pirate prows will sometimes lay concealed in the creeks and under shelter of the jungle along the coast, and will prey upon the small trading prows entering the river, but such occurrences are not common, and are guarded against by every means in the Sultaun's power.

The control of the port is placed under the authority of a native chief: he is appointed

pointed by the Sultaun, and his office is called the Shabundara. All disputes arising among the crews of vessels, or on questions regarding trade, are adjusted by the Shabundar, assisted in cases of importance by other chiefs, who are deputed for the purpose by the Sultaun. Their decision, which is regulated by the application of acknowledged rules and customs of trade to the particular points in dispute, is duly submitted by the Shabundar to the Sultaun, with whom it rests to confirm their adjudication or to direct a further consideration of the question.

The jurisdiction of the town is administered by one of the chief Pangerangs, who, by virtue of his office, is called the Pateh. All the duties of a judge and magistrate devolve upon him, in the performance of which he is assisted by a tumunggung, who holds an inferior and subordinate jurisdiction. In judicial matters the decisions of the Pateh are regulated by the common law or adat of the country, and, in cases of magnitude or difficulty, the

the Sultaun deputed other chiefs to assist in the investigation. Before the Pateh orders the execution of any sentence or decree, he submits the case to the Sultaun, and receives his orders in confirmation or otherwise. Disputes between the Chinese are commonly referred to the Captain China, or chief of the Chinese, for settlement, according to their customs ; and in like manner, the chief of the Arabs exercises authority over the Arab inhabitants.

Matters which concern the estate and effects of deceased persons, with all other suits of an ecclesiastical nature, are adjudged by the Pangerang, Penghooloo, or Cazee, who is guided in his judgment by the laws and precepts provided in the Koran.

Controversies frequently arise upon the question, whether litigated points should be adjusted by the adut or common law of the country, or by the Koran ; the one party finding the strength of his cause to be favoured by the application of one rule, and the other party, viewing his interests
to

to be best protected by the other mode of adjudication. In these cases the party who can command an influence with the Sultaun, either personally or by the intervention of his confidential advisers, will probably obtain the sanction of that law which is best suited to his purpose.

The usual punishments for offences are fines and imprisonment for short periods. Murder is commutable by fine; but in the case of a servant who killed his master, the culprit was punished by death, inflicted by the stabs of kreeses.

A chief giving offence to the Sultaun, or in his presence making use of any provoking language or gesture to another chief, must soon after send his kris to the Sultaun, in token of his submission, or he will endanger the sequestration of his property and banishment to the upper country, the usual punishment of the chiefs for contumacy or disaffection, which in extreme cases are punished with death.

Palembang is the only large town in the territories of the Sultaun which may be said

said to centre within itself all the rank and wealth of the state. The chiefs, who hold by grant from the Sultaun the seignorial property and authority in the provinces and villages, only visit their Désas, as they call them, on occasions connected with the pursuit of trade, or other objects of personal interest. The greater part of their time is spent in the capital, where they are attended by a stipulated number of their vassals, who receive no pay or food from their chiefs during their appointed time of service. The number of men each village is required to provide for the service of its chief is regularly recorded in the books of the country, together with the proportion of tribute the inhabitants have to provide from the produce of the land in their occupation.

Of the several ranks, the first in dignity will of course include the sons and brothers of the Sultaun. His eldest son has properly the title of the Pangerang Ratoo, but the Sultaun Najm al Deen gave to his eldest son that of Prabo Anam, of equal
I
dignity,

dignity, in consequence of the eldest son of the Ex-Sultaun having received that of the Pangerang Ratoo.

The Pangerangs are generally allied by blood, some nearly and others more remotely, to the royal family. They take precedence according to the designation affixed to their title. Thus the Pangerang Chitra Kasooma was elevated, in reward of his services, to the superior rank of Pangerang Wiro de Radjo. The sons of Pangerangs have the title of Radeens by birth.

The chiefs below the ranks of Pangerang and Radeen come under the general denomination of Mantries, and rank according to their titles in the following order : Tumunggung, Ranga, Demang, Angbhey. These are taken indiscriminately from all classes of the inhabitants, and are advanced to their titles at the pleasure of the Sultaun, and according to the degree of their merits and services in his apprehension. Chinese, Arabs, Malayese, and every description of persons, are found in
this

this class, the only essential requisite to the attainment of the rank of Mantrie being the profession of the Mahommedan faith.

In the provinces, the head men of the villages are generally selected by the inhabitants themselves, and their choice confirmed by the Sultaun. They have their customary titles of Dupattie, Lura, Pro-attin.

The districts and provinces which constitute the dominions of the Sultaun of Palembang derive their names from the principal rivers which flow through them, on the banks and tributary streams of which all the villages are situated. The most valuable of these provinces is probably that at the head of the river Moosee, called the Anak Moosee, so named from its embracing several streams which have confluence with the main river; the detail of the account of this province from the Palembang books * will best explain its importance

I: 2

* Vide Appendix, No. III.

importance to the Sultaun, who derives from it a valuable revenue.

The general produce of this province consists in rice, pepper, cotton, wax, gambir, and gold dust.

The word soongee signifies river, and is prefixed to the name of it.

The number of men signifies the agreed proportion to be provided for the performance of feudal services:

The province of Moosee, which comprises the Doosuns, situated on the main river, produces rice, cotton, wax, and pepper.*

The province of Lamatang is so called from a large river of that name, which has its source to the eastward of that of the Moosee, which river it joins about eighty miles above the town of Palembang. It produces pepper, cotton, and rice, and its details, according to the Palembang books, will be found in Appendix, No. V.

The

* Vide Appendix, No. IV.

The river Ogan, which also joins the Moosee, about two miles above the town of Palembang, has its source in the Lam-poong country. The particulars of this province, from the Palembang books, are as in Appendix, No. VI.

The district of Rembang Ogan has its name from the river Rembang, which joins the Ogan before it reaches the Moosee. The Sultaun is supplied with rattan mats for his palace from this district, the particulars of which are delivered in Appendix, No. VII.

The Belida river, which gives name to a small district of that name, held in fee by its chief under the Sultaun of Palembang, communicates with the river Ogan by means of a cut. The Belida joins the Moosee a few miles below the junction of Lamatang. The Banyo Asseen river embraces that province, which lies in the vicinity of the Pontian mouth of the river, and which is recorded in the Palembang books. Vide Appendix, No. VIII.

The Kamareeng is a large river which runs to the eastward of the Ogan, with which river it has a cut of communication. This river has its source in the Lampoong district, and is said to flow within twenty miles of the Tulang Bawang, the principal river in that country. The province comprised within the course of the Kamareeng is recorded in the Palembang books, but the inhabitants do not appear to have been brought under perfect subjection to the authority of the Sultan of Palembang, to whom they have not of late years rendered any tribute. This province may be considered to embrace the tract of country between the Ogan and the sea-coast of the Straits of Banca. Its population is composed of a mixture of various tribes of Javanese, Buggis, and others. An account of this province, taken from the Palembang records, forms Appendix, No. IX.

There is a description of wild people in the interior of the Palembang dominions who refuse all intercourse, and who are called

called Orang-Kubu. They are considered a very harmless and inoffensive people, and with them a trade is contrived to be carried on in the following manner. Cloths, tobacco, and other articles, of which they have need, are placed at certain spots near where they are known to live, and the owner of the goods, as a signal to them, beats a gong when he retires from the place. These people then come and take away the goods, leaving a very full equivalent in honey, wax, and other articles they collect in their wild retreats.

The Sultaun enjoys, throughout all the provinces of his dominions, the exclusive monopoly of the trade in pepper. In payment of this produce he delivers to the cultivators cloths at fixed prices, which, perhaps, will allow to the Sultaun a profit of fifty per cent. on the original cost to him of these articles.

This is a privilege established by long custom, and which, coming under the denomination of *Tiban* and *Toocan*, awakens

so much of the sympathy of Mr. Muntinghe.

The Sultaun being the acknowledged lord of the land, confers grants of the several villages to the Pangerangs and Mantries, in value apportioned to the favour in which they are respectively held by him.

The assessment of each village is duly recorded, stating the quantity of produce agreed by the occupants of land to be provided to the chief, and the number of matagawies, or men to be furnished for rowing his boat, and other duties required by him to be performed. This is the system of forced labours and deliveries which has further called forth the indignation of Mr. Muntinghe, and, as he may wish it to be thought, the humane interposition of the Netherlands' Government of Java: and this is the very identical system pursued in their own settlements of Amboyna. Not only so, but in order to increase the value of their own forced cultivation and deliveries, they destroy the natural productions of the neighbouring

neighbouring islands, and deprive their inhabitants of the gifts which nature has bestowed, because those gifts come in competition with their own interest, and if allowed to be enjoyed would, by increasing supply, depreciate the value of their trade.

Whatever may be the objections to this system, it is very evident that the contributions to the Sultaun and the chiefs are in fact payments of rent for the land. These rights of the Sultaun and the chiefs, founded on ancient custom and agreement with the occupants of the land annexed to the villages, ought to be held sacred, as constituting their property.

Whether it be good or whether it be bad, the Dutch Government had no right whatever to interfere with the property of the chiefs, nor with the laws and government of the country. To send a messenger through the country, proclaiming the *ipse dixit* of their Ambassador to the Palembang state, and introducing, or endeavouring to introduce anarchy and distrust,

trust, by announcing to the people that they were no longer to pay their rents, nor to perform any of the ancient duties of their allegiance, was a barbarous and malignant outrage upon the feelings and interests of the Sultaun, the chiefs, and even the people themselves. It has deservedly produced an unanimous and determined resistance, which I trust may be eventually successful.

Had it been the real object of the Netherlands' Government to ameliorate the condition of the people, and to animate them to the improvement of the advantages they enjoyed in a fertile soil intersected by fine rivers, they would have employed time, conciliation, and persuasion, to impress the Sultaun and the chiefs with the belief of advantage to themselves and benefit to the people, to be expected from a more perfect system of laws and administration. But their interest was too clearly, as I have already stated it, to usurp the country; and to prevent all opposition to such insidious design, by ex-
citing

citing the people against the chiefs, and the chiefs who supported one Sultaun against the chiefs who supported the other.

Of the general population of the country under the authority of the Sultaun of Palembang I can form no correct estimate. From the record of the number of men registered for feudal services, a rough computation would suggest the possibility of 75,000 scattered over the provinces, and 25,000 for the town of Palembang, making a total population of 100,000 souls.

The produce of the interior is brought to Palembang on large rafts of bamboos, upon which small houses are constructed of the same materials, covered in with nipah leaves. Thus completed these rafts are called rackets, and the people who have charge of conveyance of the stores have no further trouble in the navigation of the river, than to keep the racket in the middle of the stream.

Of positive slavery there is less, perhaps, than in most of the Malayan countries,

tries, or even those which constitute the present Dutch possessions.

Individuals who borrow money for the purpose of relieving themselves and families from urgent distress, owe service and fidelity to their creditors until the debt is discharged. They cannot quit their masters excepting they find another master willing to advance the amount of their debt, when their services revert to their new creditor. The debt is not only binding on the individual, but on his wife and children; but they cannot be sold, or made property of as slaves. This law has given another occasion for Mr. Muntinghe to make a display of his tenderness and philanthropy towards the Palembang people.

No consideration of the rights of individuals, or regard for the independence of the state, were permitted to interrupt the accomplishment of Mr. Muntinghe's interpretation of relief to suffering humanity: his messenger is therefore charged to proclaim, through a country where he had no authority, or any other title than the superior

rior strength of his government, the abolition of this abominable custom, as he calls it.

I do not mean to advocate the morality or justice of such a custom, but I do assert, that in such cases a worse evil must accrue to society, from the principle of employing violence and fraud in the contemplation of beneficial results, than any evil from imperfection of laws.

However odious such a custom may appear, we may perhaps trace some good effects to arise from it. In Palembang we see no houseless or starving poor, none “ pining in want or in a dungeon’s
“ gloom, shut from the common air and
“ common use of their own limbs.”

Of the revenues of the Sultaun of Palembang it would be difficult to form a mo-
nied estimate, as they consist of contribu-
tions in kind from the provinces, port
duties, and feudal dues and services,
which embrace a variety of contingencies.

On occasions of the marriage of the Sul-
taun’s sons all the principal inhabitants
are

are required to erect a flagstaff, and on the day of ceremony to hoist a flag. This is a custom observed on any grand occasion of joy to the royal family. On the occasion of marriage the parties are weighed, when the chiefs are expected to contribute a proportion of silver money.

The island of Banca was the most profitable source of monied revenue, from which, some years ago, the Sultaun may be computed to have derived 150,000 dollars annually, by the sale of tin on terms of his contract with the Dutch East India Company.

Of that possession I proceed to give a separate account.

DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT

OF

BANCA.

THE island of Banca is situated to the southward of the equator, between the latitudes of $1^{\circ} 30'$, and $3^{\circ} 8'$. Its western extreme being in the longitude of $105^{\circ} 9'$, and the easternmost point in $106^{\circ} 51'$ east of Greenwich; measuring in its greatest length, from N.W. to S.E. one hundred and thirty-five miles, and in its broadest part sixty-eight miles.

The direction of the island is, generally speaking, parallel to the Sumatran coast, from N.W. to S.E., with which it forms the Straits of Banca. There is no continued chain of mountainous land, but lofty hills in short ranges are interspersed through every part. The highest mountain

tain on the island, Goonoong Maras, rests on its base, unconnected with any other hill, its summit being marked by two distinct cones, one of which is a little more elevated than the other. The highest point may be estimated at three thousand feet above the level of the sea, from which this mountain begins to rise, about two miles from the bottom of Klabat Bay. It is distinctly visible on the coasts of the island to the north, east, and west, and for a considerable distance down the Straits of Banca.

Monopin Hill, called by the natives Goonoong Manumbling, is situated on the western extreme land of Banca, and to Europeans, as well as natives, is a principal landmark in navigation. For this, from its position on projecting land, without any interposition of adjoining or circumjacent hills, it is better adapted than Goonoong Maras, although much inferior in height and magnitude. This hill has been found by measurement to be fifteen hundred feet above the level of the sea.

Tunjong

Tunjong Tuen and Tanjong Riah, on the east coast, are also distinct and superior hills, of a parallel elevation, as I should judge, to Monopin Hill. Another lofty hill, rising above a short range of hills, in the latitude of Tunjong Brekat, is distinctly visible at sea, off that point. Its height must exceed that of Monopin Hill, as it seems to subtend an equal angle at certainly a greater distance.

Many of the hills on Banca have conical summits, but there is not the smallest trace of volcanic eruption in any part of the island.

On the morning of the 11th of April 1815, a constant succession of sounds was heard at Minto, like reports of distant cannon. Thinking it possible they might be signals of distress from a ship in the Straits, the Government vessels then in the Roads were directed to proceed down the Straits in the direction whence the reports appeared to come. Captain O'Brien, in his Majesty's frigate Doris, got under weigh at the same time.

It is remarkable that the reports were not heard by any person on board the frigate or vessels in the Roads, nor at any time whilst they were at sea. A Swedish ship arrived from the southward the next day, from which no tidings could be obtained in explanation, as no person on board had heard or seen any thing extraordinary on their passage up the Straits.

Expresses were received from the inspectors of every district, conveying their apprehensions of attack from pirates, each observing that heavy firing of cannon had been heard, which they supposed to be near. It struck me that one of the hills in Banca must have exploded, but the sounds were afterwards proved to have proceeded from the explosion of a hill on the island of Sumbawa, to the eastward of Java, a distance not less than seven hundred miles, and still farther from Palembang, over which country also the sounds were distinctly heard.

The whole island of Banca is abundantly supplied with water, of the best quality.

The

The principal rivers are those of Jeboos and Jeering on the west coast ; those of Antun and Layang in Klabat Bay, and the Marawang river on the east coast. These may be called rivers of the first class. Those of the second description are the rivers of Kota-bringin, Mindo, Banca Cotta, Salan, on the west. Mapoor, Coba Carraow, and Kuppo, on the east coast, with many others of inferior consideration.

None of these rivers will admit vessels of great burthen, as banks of sand run off all their entrances.

The villages are all situated some miles up the rivers, so that in sailing along the coast of Banca there is no appearance of habitation. The island has, however, a pleasing aspect in sailing up the Straits, as the high lands of the Banca shore come in near and favourable contrast with the unvarying flatness of the Sumatran coast.

Rains are frequent on the island of Banca, except in the months of May, June, July, and August. These compose the season when the S. E. monsoon wind

blows with the greatest strength and continuance, and are the hottest and driest months.

The most continued rains prevail during the months of November, December, January, and February, the season of the N.W. monsoon. Calms and squalls are frequent during the intervals between one monsoon and the other, which unsettled periods of wind are distinguished by the natives as the season of the Pencharobo.

These intervals may be included between the 15th of March, when the N.W. monsoon begins to subside, and the 15th of May, when the S.E. may be expected to set in strong; and again, between the 15th of September and the 15th of November when the N.W. monsoon generally begins to blow fresh. Between these periods, vessels may be expected to navigate, with equal success, up or down the Straits. At these times, also, the pirates take the opportunity of emerging from their haunts about Lingen, the island of Billiton, and the west coast of Borneo, to
prey

prey upon small prows with which they fall in during calms and light winds.

By the ravages of these people, Banca has had its population deplorably reduced; yet, during the English possession of the island, only one or two trivial instances occurred of their venturing upon the shore.

Thunder and lightning are frequent, and the explosions very often extremely violent. Lightning may be said to be observable half the evenings of the year, and very frequently in vivid flashes of forked lightning. His Majesty's frigate *Resistance*, lost in the Straits of Banca some years ago, was supposed to have been blown up by an instantaneous explosion of the magazine, occasioned by lightning.

The climate of Banca is generally healthy throughout the island, but particular situations will form exceptions to this observation.

In the interior the nights are cool, but in the dry weather the action of the sun upon a gravelly soil makes the heat very oppressive during the day. The thermo-

meter varies from 78° to 84° , never exceeding 88° in the shade.

The woods afford a variety of fine timber, of which the Mengarawang is used for masts and yards of vessels. This timber is found of superior quality at Palembang. The Pitallee is considered little inferior to Teak, and with the Sakor and Madang are employed for building. Kayoo-bessee, or the iron wood, so called from its extreme hardness, which spoils the carpenter's tools in working it, is likewise found on the island.

Kayoo Arang, or ebony, is abundant about the forest of Layang and the north coast. Considerable quantities are cut and sent to Palembang for sale to the China junks.

A wood called Baller is found in the forest of the north coast, of which tables are made, being broad in the plank, fine in the grain, and of a good colour.

A large tree, which grows perfectly erect, and which from its height and size would seem calculated for the mainmast of the
largest

largest ship, rots internally and falls to the ground. It is called the Dammer tree, and is frequently seen lying on the ground when passing through the forests.

Lignum aloes, called by the natives Kayoo Garoo or Kalambek, is also found on Banca, and sent to Palembang for sale to the China junks.

Trepangs, or the sea-slugs, and Agar Agar, are picked up in Klabat Bay, and along the islands and shoals bordering the eastern coast of Banca. These islands, during the calm months preceding the S. E. monsoon, are frequented by numerous prows from Lingen and Billiton, for the purpose of collecting these articles, which have a ready sale to the China junks. The natives of Banca on the eastern coast, as on other parts, had suffered so much from the piracies committed by these people, that their presence never failed to excite considerable alarm.

Dammer, honey, wax, and mats, are also articles of trade from the southern part of the island of Banca.

The Sultaun of Palembang used to be supplied formerly with iron from a large village in the southern part of the island, called Pako, which, about twenty-five years since, was depopulated by the pirates, who carried off the inhabitants. The importation of thirty tons of English and Swedish iron annually, has superseded the necessity of working the ore in this neighbourhood.

With the exception of deer and wild hogs, of which there are very few, no animals are found on Banca. Tigers, which are common at Palembang, and which there frequently visit the skirts of the town, are here unknown. Insects abound, and also snakes, of which some, of a small kind, are venomous. Those of very large size, which are numerous, are cut open by the Chinese, and the gall taken out, which they use as a medicine.

Horses from Java, and buffaloes, were found to thrive very well. The flesh of buffaloes is scarcely inferior to that of oxen, and there would have been little difficulty in rearing a sufficient stock
to

to supply the occasional demand of the China ships from England.

Ducks, fowls, fish, and pork, were the only descriptions of animal food procurable on the island. Fish and pork were tolerably abundant and good, but at Minto we were indebted to importations from Palembang for a sufficient supply of ducks and fowls, cocoa-nuts, and fruits of all kinds, of the best quality.

The natives, who are called Orang Goonoongs, cultivate in the interior small quantities of rice on spots cleared of wood, which being burnt, affords the only assistance to the soil which they can command. The quantity of rice they cultivate is barely sufficient for their own consumption.

That the island is so little productive of the essentials of life is not to be attributed to the poverty of the soil, so much as to the employment of an inadequate population in more profitable labours than their production, to which the inhabitants

habitants are not impelled by necessity, as their wants are amply supplied by importation.

The town of Mintok, as it was called previous to the English establishment on the island, was originally peopled from Lingen and the islands adjacent, who resorted thither for the purpose of trade, and the more ready means of pursuing their principal object of smuggling tin from Banca.

The population of Mintok, when we took possession of the island, was confined to a few principal families, and an inferior class, occupied occasionally in fishing, and at other times in carrying on the trade and smuggling transactions of their superiors.

The name of the town was changed to Minto, in compliment, as I have elsewhere observed, to that revered nobleman, whose administration of the British Empire in India was rendered memorable by the important acquisition of all the Eastern Colonies.

The town of Minto is situated about three miles to the east of Tanjong Kaleang, having a small river, which takes its rise from Monopin Hill. The ground rises immediately at the back of the town, and partakes of the general character of the soil of Banca, which is loose and gravelly. The country between Minto and Monopin Hill is elevated and craggy, intersected by deep ravines, which are more pleasing to the eye than favourable to the ready construction of roads. It is covered with brushwood, Lalang, or coarse high grass, black rocks, and occasional trees. The water here, as in every part of Banca, is particularly clear and good.

The establishment of the Residency and troops is fixed about a quarter of a mile from the town, on a clear elevated spot, where a fine view is obtained of the Straits of Banca, and the Sumatran shore. The establishments of the store-keeper and master-attendant are formed upon the beach, where storehouses are erected for ready receipt and delivery

of stores from and to the shipping. Opposite to the Resident's house, upon the cliff, a battery is made, from whence salutes are fired. There is no ground well adapted for the erection of a fort near the town, which will not be commanded by the higher grounds in the vicinity.

It was originally attempted to establish the Residency at Tanjong Kaleang, the western point of Banca; that site is exceedingly picturesque, and, but for the extreme insalubrity of the spot, would in every respect have been admirably adapted for the situation of a fort, and every other public purpose of Government. A ship can there anchor within a quarter of a mile from the shore, and by selecting for anchorage ground either the west or the south side of the point, would find good shelter from the storms of either the S. E. or N. W. monsoon. Forming a projection towards Sumatra, its situation afforded a commanding view of the mouth of the Palembang river, and over a wide

extent of navigation, both up and down the Straits; this, under the circumstances of an habitual system of smuggling, that existed previous to our possession, became particularly desirable for the protection of the public interests.

With such a delightful spot as this certainly is, open to the sea to the north, south, and west, and possessing such advantages of facilitating the public business, by ready communication with shipping, the suggestions of the natives that the place was haunted by the demon of ill-health were disregarded, and viewed to proceed from an evil design to divert us from fixing the establishment on a point which gave such efficient control over the surrounding navigation.

A fort was therefore planned; temporary edifices were erected for the Resident, the officers of the establishment, the troops, and the stores; in the progress of which many fell sick, and difficulties were observed in procuring labourers to carry on the works, but these were con-

sidered obstacles usually incident to a first establishment, and the diffidence of an ignorant people towards the novel authority of Europeans.

Perseverance, however, was not observed to lesson the calamities of sickness. The deaths of six officers, with the necessity of removing almost the whole of the gentlemen composing the infant establishment, who, labouring under severe paroxysms of fever, proceeded to Malacca, Java, or Palembang, according to the exigency of their several cases and the opportunities presented for a change, together with the alarming casualties amongst the troops and artizans, afforded but too fatal and indisputable conviction of the imprudence and impracticability of further attempting a permanent establishment on this inviting and too tempting spot.*

A spot

* The melancholy and appalling mortality which attended the original settlement upon Banca, would, it may be supposed, give a general impression unfavorable to the
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A spot between Rangam and Beloe, not far from Minto, was then selected. Here the sick were removed from the point to temporary shelter, and the benefits they derived from the change was immediately apparent. This spot was, however, very inconvenient for shipping; and at length, about thirteen months after taking possession of the island, Minto itself was fixed upon as the seat of the Residency.

That

the character of the whole island. Reports from the Resident to the Government of Java, for several successive months, were replete with distressing accounts of the effects of the raging fever upon officers and men.

The Government of Java, therefore, at one time contemplated the possible necessity of abandoning the attempt of establishing an English settlement on the island. In lieu thereof, it was proposed to extend the establishment at Palembang, leaving the mines to be worked under the administration of the Sultaun of Palembang as heretofore, but without prejudice to our sovereign right of possession.

The agitation of this question will account for the suggestion of the resident to the Sultaun Najm-al-Deen, as before noticed, that in the event of his resignation in favour of his deposed brother Badr-al-Deen, the Banca contract might probably be granted to him by the Java government in remuneration.

That spot has since continued to give full evidence of its salubrity, not one officer having died, and only the ordinary proportion of men ; nor has any instance occurred of unusual sickness.

The population of the town has since greatly increased, and was daily increasing when the transfer took place to the Netherlands' Government. A census was taken in the year 1813, eighteen months after the cession, when the inhabitants of Minto were found to be composed as follow :

Chinese	86 men.
Do.....	13 women.
Do.....	8 children.
Malayese.....	382 men.
Do.	332 women.
Do.	506 children.
Slaves.....	43 men.
Do.	92 women.
Do.	36 children.

Total : 1,498

Towards

Towards the latter end of the year 1815 another census was taken, when the population of the town was exhibited as follows:

Chinese	242 men.
Do.....	22 women.
Do.....	2 children.
Malayese.....	499 men.
Do.	514 women.
Do.	550 children.
Slaves.....	27 men.
Do.	72 women.
Do.	27 children.

Total...1,955

No individual employed under Government is included herein; and this is certainly the lowest computation, as the people have much unwillingness to deliver the account of their household. This remark is more particularly applicable to the native population of the island. Under the government of the Sultaun of Palembang, the natives of the interior, or Orang

Goonoongs, were required to perform the services of carrying tin, and other duties, proportionate to their numbers. Although under our administration they were regularly fed and paid whenever their services were required upon public works, the native heads were anxious to have as few of the people as possible withdrawn upon such duties, and were therefore interested in making their returns of the inhabitants of their Campoongs as limited as possible.

In order to guard against any infraction of the act of parliament for the abolition of the slave trade, and to prevent any unjust pretensions upon individuals, the inhabitants were required, early in the year 1814, to register the slaves they possessed. For that purpose, they were directed to bring such slaves personally before the Resident, in order to obtain their own confession, or proof from the master in opposition to denial of their condition as slaves in property. In the register was recorded a description of each

each individual, as to sex, age, country, and complexion, and an extract therefrom, in the form of a certificate, was granted to the master for each individual slave.

In case of the death of a slave, or transfer to a new master, the proprietor was required under a penalty to deliver up to the Resident the certificate of such slave's register, and on a transfer a new certificate was granted to the new master. In case of death, the certificate was destroyed and the name struck out of the register.

The masters were also required to report the birth of every child born of a slave woman, for whom, at the age of six months, a certificate was granted and a register taken. But it was prohibited to sell such slaves during youth separate from their mother, unless with her consent.

A female slave being given by her master to a free man in marriage became free, and the children of such marriage were also free. Every master was further required to give due maintenance to his

slaves who had grown old and infirm. All persons settling at Minto were required to register the slaves they brought with them.

This record having been taken, all the inhabitants of the island of Banca, excepting the registered slaves, were declared to be free subjects of the English Government, and as such incapable, even by their own act, of selling or pawning the freedom of themselves or children.

At the same time a register was taken of the houses, and lands annexed, belonging to each inhabitant of the town of Minto, and a certificate thereof granted to the proprietor. This measure was a precaution against the litigation of house-property, as well as to prevent any clandestine occupation or appropriation of the land adjoining the town.

Minto, from the original establishment of the residency there, had been made the emporium of all the trade from foreign places to the island of Banca, and no vessel was allowed to visit the outports, excepting

excepting under a pass from the Resident at Minto. This regulation was framed, on a just view of expediency, to guard against the smuggling of tin, which could not otherwise have been effectually counteracted.

The imports at Minto for the year 1815 were valued by the records of that year at four hundred and fifty thousand rupees: of which amount three hundred thousand would be for provisions of rice, salt, oil, tobacco, teas, sugar, &c. &c.; ninety thousand would be the average for Bengal and Madras cloths, English woollens and cottons, Java cloths and handkerchiefs; and sixty thousand for other articles of merchandize.

The importations by Government included in the above would amount to about three hundred and twenty thousand rupees, and those of individuals to one hundred and thirty thousand. The chief article of import is rice, of which forty thousand peculs were required annually.

Of the exports for this year, the tin was the only article on account of Government. The exports of individuals would not, by the records, appear to have exceeded forty thousand rupees.

Having given an account of the principal town on the island, the administration of the districts, and the tin mines, will next come under review.

Under the administration of the Sultaun of Palembang, his authority and interests at the several mine districts were confided to seven principal natives of Palembang, to whom, under the denomination of Tekos, the Sultaun advanced the necessary supplies of money to carry on the business of the mines. The stations of these Tekos and the districts annexed to each, were Jeboos and Klabat on the N. W. part of the island, Blinyoe on the east side of Klabat Bay, Soengy-Leat, Marawang, and Pankal Pinang on the eastern coast, and Toobooallie to the southward.

The Tekos were descendants of the progeny of a Chinese father and of a Malayan woman,

woman, who followed the Mahommedan faith, and who preserved a knowledge of the Chinese language in addition to that of the Malayese. On this account, as well as for aptitude in business and acuteness, they were selected to conduct the mine districts, which were worked by Chinese miners. These chiefs resided principally at Palembang, from whence they supplied the miners under their respective controul with every article of provisions and merchandize required for their comfort and subsistence. It may be here remarked, that, by the cession of the Island of Banca, a considerable diminution of the trade from Palembang ensued, as Banca became supplied direct from Java, and by vessels navigating to and from the westward.

The Tekos only visited their districts occasionally, for the purpose of adjusting their accounts with the miners, and arranging with their subordinate agents, or Congsees, as they were called, the works to be carried on during their absence.

These Congsees superintended the mines, and kept the accounts of the miners in behalf of the Teko, from whom they received a stated salary.

The Sultaun advanced from five to ten thousand dollars to each of the Tekos, according to the importance of their charge, and contracted with them for the delivery of all the tin, at eight dollars per pecul of one hundred and fifty catties, or two hundred and ten English pounds.

Furnaces were erected, and all expenses of the mine apparatus, as well as clearing the jungle and other labours preparatory to excavating the mine, were defrayed by the Teko, who afterwards paid the miners the regulated price of about six dollars for each pecul of one hundred and sixty catties delivered by them. Two-thirds of this payment were made in provisions and merchandize received by the miners during the progress of their labour, and the remaining third in tin coin called petis, which every Teko had the privilege of adopting for the circulation of his district,
and

and which beyond the limits of that district had no currency.

A Demang, one of the native chiefs of Palembang, was vested with authority over the Orang Goonoongs, or natives of the interior, the authority of the Tekos being confined to the Chinese miners. His station was fixed at Kotabringgen, whence he was directed to watch the conduct of the Congsees, and to prevent any smuggling of tin to the Sultaun's prejudice.

The native chief of the Orang Laots, or people whose occupation is fishing and in boats, was charged to protect the coasts from smuggling prowls. His charge extended from the Jeboos river, where his campong lay, round the northern and eastern coast, as far as the Marawang river. This chief, however, frequently found the temptations to promote his own gain too powerful in the contest with his sense of duty. The miners, who had intercourse with the smugglers, would contrive to bribe him not to see them; but if they did
come

come under his observation, he was faithful to his trust and endeavoured to intercept them : without a previous settlement of his bribe there was no security for them against his vigilance. The people under his controul being constantly employed about Klabat Bay and the adjacent coasts, soon perceived any suspicious prow, and quickly conveyed information of their appearance to the chief, who became passive or active as suited the occasion.

Besides the tin collected by the Tekos from the Chinese miners of their districts, a large quantity of tin was collected by the Orang Goonoongs, who delivered their produce to the Sultaun at the rate of three dollars per pecul of one hundred catties.

Previous to the emigration of many of the Banceanese, and the capture of a still greater number by the pirates, who invaded the coasts of this island about twenty-five years ago, the Sultaun is said to have received from the labours of the Orang Goonoongs fifteen thousand peculs annually,

nually, which, with a like quantity from the mines worked by Chinese, yielded a total of thirty thousand peculs. The cost of the whole to the Sultaun would not exceed one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, *viz.* forty-five thousand dollars in payment of the Orang Goonoongs, which payment was composed chiefly of cloths, upon which the Sultaun had his profit, and eighty thousand dollars in payment to the Tekos at the rates above mentioned. By contract with the Dutch East-India Company, the Sultaun would receive for the above quantity of tin three hundred thousand dollars, from which deducting the cost to him, there would remain a net revenue of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars.

The following account was delivered to me of the depopulation of the island of Banca.

About twenty-five years ago, a native chief of Palembang had committed some flagrant act, which the father of the present Sultaun was determined to punish with extreme

treme severity. This chief, named Radeen Jaffier, to escape the Sultaun's vengeance, fled to Lingen, and the greater number of the principal inhabitants of Minto, who were concerned with him in his crime or interested in his fate, took flight also, with their dependents. The Bancanese along the coasts to the southward of Minto, which was then the most populous part of the island, instigated by the people of Minto, or alarmed at their representations, emigrated at the same time in great numbers. Their original intention was to settle at Penang, now called Prince of Wales' Island, in their voyage to which place they stopped at Lingen, an island about eighty miles N. W. of Banca, where they were detained by the Rajah of Lingen, and not permitted to proceed further. Radeen Jaffier afterwards invited the Lanoon pirates, who are the most formidable in this quarter, to invade the Banca coast on the straits to the southward of Minto, whilst Penglima Ramen, a native chief of Lingen, with others of the same rank, invaded

vaded the eastern coast about Marawang, and to the southward of that river, where the population of Bancanese was also considerable.

Upwards of three thousand of the Bancanese were computed to have been removed from the island on this occasion, and half of this number are said to have been sold at Lingen, Pontiana, and other places adjacent. The pirates having taken with them Bancanese emigrants to guide them to the villages, were easily enabled to accomplish their purpose; and having thus acquired a knowledge of the rivers and the places of abode of the people, could ever after conduct their enterprises with intelligence of the country, and thus succeeded in their pursuit of the defenceless inhabitants.

The repeated inroads of these marauders, until the cession of the island to the British Government, necessarily prevented the population from retrieving the losses sustained in these calamitous times, and thus the southern part of the island, as far

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as the district of Toobooallie, has since remained very deficient of people.

The produce of tin was by this event considerably reduced ; and in consequence of the wars between Great Britain and Holland, a further cause of diminution of the deliveries to the Sultaun of Palembang, and by him to the Dutch, took place, owing to the increased activity of the smugglers, and the enterprising spirit of the Penang merchants, who at length engrossed the greater part of the tin trade.

The Dutch, observing the great defalcation in their commercial concerns at Palembang, took advantage of the calm which succeeded the peace of Amiens, and sent a frigate with Commissioners to inquire into the causes of such deficiency in their tin contract.

The Sultaun received the Commissioners with every attention and respect, expressed his readiness to facilitate their inquiries, and conveyed the necessary orders to his delegates on Banca relative to the reception of the Commissioners with
due

due respect. He no doubt, at the same time, delivered secret instructions to his agents to interpose every possible obstacle to their design; as the Commissioners, in closing their report, gave a very circumstantial detail of the difficulties obtruded by the chiefs of the island, to oppose the accomplishment of their purpose.

The principal points upon which their report conveyed information respected the positions, along the coast of the island, which they had inspected, and considered most eligible for posts of observation and security against smugglers and pirates. They do not appear to have ventured into any part of the interior, nor to have extended their observations beyond the range of the frigate. Whatever may have been their eventual intentions with respect to the island of Banca, they were frustrated by the renewal of the war, and the enterprize of the Penang traders. The Sultaun, no doubt, countenanced the smuggling trade, and found his advantage in the increased price received from such clandestine sales.

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He was, however, very cautious never to give the Dutch Resident at Palembang any reason to suppose a disposition on his part at variance with his commercial treaty with the Dutch Government at Batavia.

The island of Billiton was administered by a chief appointed by the Sultaun of Palembang, under the title of Dupattie. This chief exercised, in fact, sovereign authority over the island, the Sultaun being indifferent respecting a possession from which he derived so trivial a revenue. The tribute from this island was recorded in the Palembang books at one hundred and fifty dollars and one hundred and fifty bundles of iron annually, and the Sultaun was satisfied by this small demonstration of fealty, and the acknowledgment of his sovereign sway in the nominal appointment of the chief who presided.

Having thus depicted the principal features of the administration of the islands of Banca and Billiton under the government of the Sultaun of Palembang, I shall proceed to give an outline of the general system

tem of management arranged by our own Government subsequent to the cession.

Immediately upon our taking possession of the island, the Java Government directed an advance of the contracted price of deliveries of tin, in order to remove any pretext for clandestine disposal on the ground of inadequate remuneration, and to promote a full development of the resources of the mines. The Tekos, or Congsees as they were generally called, in charge of the several mines, were therefore informed that Government would allow for all future deliveries to the English Resident at Banca, at the rate of eight Spanish dollars for every pecul of one hundred catties or one hundred and twenty-five Dutch pounds.

This advance, therefore, amounted to two dollars and two-thirds on every one hundred catties beyond the price they had heretofore received from the Sultaun of Palembang; and such an advance, exceeding fifty per cent., it was fair to suppose would afford an ample share of profit

to the Congsee, and allow such a proportion for the miners as would stimulate exertions on their part to produce the most abundant quantity that the mines might be capable of yielding.

It is difficult to divine whether the Congsees were influenced solely by cupidity, or by the hope of obtaining a still further advance in the contract price ; or whether they expected, by opposing obstacles to our arrangement of the mines, that they should discourage the Government from undertaking the management of Banca, and obtain the reversion of the contract to the Sultaun of Palembang and a renewal of the former system of administration. Their conduct, however, by whatever motives it may have been actuated, completely frustrated the intentions and disappointed the expectations of Government.

The Chinese miners, hearing of the consideration extended by Government towards the Congsees in the advanced price of tin allowed to them, considered themselves

themselves entitled to participate in the benefits of the new rate, and demanded from the Congsees an enhancement of the allowance for their deliveries.

The Congsees resisted their demands, and the miners, in consequence, refused to smelt' the ore they had collected, or to carry on their labours in the mines.

The deliveries of tin to Government, under these circumstances, were so trivial as to demand their particular attention, which was at the same time seriously awakened by the continued unfavourable reports of sickness at the new settlement.

A commission was therefore appointed, consisting of the Resident and two other gentlemen, who were sent from Batavia, to report upon the state of the island. The Resident and one of the commissioners having been taken ill with the prevailing fever, the execution of the duties of the commission remained to be performed by Dr. Horsfield, and for which the talents of this gentleman were perfectly suited.

He travelled over the districts to the northward and eastward of Minto, and in the course of his inquiries and observations had reason to conclude, that the defalcation in the produce of tin, since the administration of the British Government, was to be attributed to the improper management and extravagant expectations of the Congsees, the disaffection of the miners, and the success of the smugglers.

Government, therefore, determined upon a change of system, as suggested by the Resident my predecessor and Dr. Horsfield.

The Congsees were to be paid for their stock at the mines, and for all the tin produced from the ore which had been prepared by the miners, and for which the Congsees had made advances to them. The debts of the miners to the Congsees, on account of advances made to them since the cession to the British Government, which might not be liquidated by the deliveries of tin in readiness, Govern-
ment

ment undertook the responsibility of paying to the Congsees.

Their accounts having been adjusted to the satisfaction of the Congsees, all further contract with them for working the mines was abolished. The administration of the mines was to be conducted for the future by the Resident, assisted by a competent number of civil officers, one of whom was stationed at each principal depôt on the island. These civil officers, who were called inspectors, were charged with the stores of provisions, &c. requisite for the miners, with the control of advances and the accounts of each mine, and with a general superintendence of the mines and miners in their district.

The Resident then assembled the miners on his visit to each district, and framed with them the following agreement, which they cheerfully signed, and returned to their labours in the mines, elated with the prospect of adequate compensation for their future exertions.

“ 1. The miners agree to deliver to Government, at the depôt of the district, all the tin extracted from the mines, on payment at the rate of six dollars per pecul, free of all charges whatever for smelting or transporting.

“ 2. They agree to refund to Government the amount of debt incurred by them for advances made to them by the former Congsees, since the cession of the island to the British Government, which remains unliquidated.

“ 3. They agree to take rice at three dollars per peeul, and other articles at proper rates, from the Government stores.

“ 4. Government will provide the buildings and furnaces requisite for smelting the ore ; but all other expenses attending the working of the mines are to be defrayed by the miners.”

This system of administration was introduced about twelve months after the cession of the island, during which period the deliveries of tin had been very trifling.

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Of the advantages which resulted to Government in the progress of this system towards completion, the following account of deliveries, for the successive periods, will sufficiently manifest.

From the 1st January to the 30th June 1813, the total deliveries of tin for this period of six months did not exceed three thousand five hundred and sixty peculs.

From the 1st July 1813 to the 31st December 1813, the total deliveries of tin on the island of Banca amounted for six months to three thousand seven hundred and thirty peculs.

From the 1st January to the 31st December 1814, the deliveries for one year amounted to nineteen thousand one hundred and fifty peculs.

From the 1st January to the 31st December 1815, they amounted to twenty-five thousand one hundred and ninety peculs.

And from the 1st January to the 2d December 1816, the date of transfer of the island to the Netherlands' Govern-

ment, the deliveries for eleven months were twenty-six thousand six hundred and seventy peculs.

Having given a cursory sketch of the general system established for the mines, I proceed to offer some particulars respecting each district. In doing so, I shall suppose myself setting out from Minto on a tour of inspection, in the course of which I shall notice whatever subject may seem to me interesting.

The first place we come to is Rangam, to the east of Minto, distant about four miles. Here is a large mine worked by thirty miners, who, in the latter half of the year 1816, delivered two hundred and fifteen peculs of tin. Rangam is a neat village, inhabited by Chinese and Malayese, who cultivate gardens, and supply the town of Minto with vegetables.

From Rangam to Beloe the distance is about four hours. Here also is a village of Chinese and Malayese, who pursue small traffic and cultivate gardens. The mines of Beloe are distant about twelve miles

miles from the village, in a N.N.E. direction, through an elevated country intersected by steep ascents and descents. The pathway is generally good, and the country open and pleasant. Only sixteen miners were here employed. They deliver about one hundred and fifty peculs.

From the mines of Beloe to Plannas the pathway is in some parts difficult, and occupied me six hours, in a N.E. direction, to accomplish. Here are a few Malayese, who work at the mines, in conjunction with eight Chinese. They deliver about one hundred peculs of tin.

From Plannas the road lays N.N.W. through a winding path along the jungle, which occupies five hours to reach the sea shore ; proceeding along which for two hours more, you come to the Campoong of the Orang Laots, at the mouth of the Jeboos river, from whence, through a swampy road, it takes one hour and a half to reach the stockade at Jeboos.

The Jeboos river is broad at its entrance, but the channel is very rocky, and requires

requires a guide, or caution, even in boats. A bank extends about two miles from the mouth, outside of which is three fathoms water. The river branches off in two directions, one N.E. to Soongy-Booloo, the other S.E. by E. to Jeboos, which winds very much the whole way, so that from three to four hours would be occupied in the ascent to the stockade in a boat.

Jeboos is inhabited by a few Chinese and Malayese, and is the residence* of the inspector of the district, who has a comfortable habitation, with storehouses under his charge for providing the requisite supplies to the miners. Here all the tin is collected from the mines of Jeboos, Klabat, and Soongy Booloo, previous to its transport to Minto.

From Jeboos to the lower furnace the distance is performed in two hours and a half, in a direction N.E. by N. The road is tolerably good, generally through jungle, but occasionally there are open spots where the Orang Goonoongs have cultivated their
ladang

ladang or hill rice. The mines of Jeboos are situated in the neighbourhood of this, and the upper furnace about one mile beyond it. Klabat is about two miles further to the eastward, where is a furnace and a small post for the residence of a Congsee, now occupied by one of the native servants of Government subordinate to the inspector of Jeboos. The whole country about the two furnaces and Klabat has been cleared by the operations of the miners whose mines are situated hereabout, and from whence the ore is readily conveyed to the furnaces for smelting. The tin is conveyed to the stockade at Jeboos as soon as smelted, and the miners have to pay, from the lower furnace, at the rate of one dollar for the transport of seven slabs, or three peculs and a half. From the upper furnace six slabs, and Klabat five slabs, for one dollar. Wheelbarrows* are used for transporting the tin, which

* The only description of wheel-carriage, excepting gun-carriages, on the island.

which is no very arduous task, as the road is generally down hill all the way to Jeboos. If the island had remained in our possession, iron railways might in particular situations have been introduced with great advantage, to facilitate the transport of the ore from the mines to the furnaces, and the tin from the furnaces to the depôts.

In the month of April 1813 there were eight small and four large mines belonging to Jeboos, employing one hundred and thirty-nine miners. When the island was transferred to the Netherlands' Government there were six large and thirteen inferior and small mines, giving employment to two hundred and forty miners. The produce yielded by these mines, in 1816, amounted to four thousand six hundred peculs.

At Klabat, in the former period, there were two large and eight small mines, employing seventy-seven miners; and at the latter period four large and nine inferior and small mines, which employed one hundred

hundred and fifty miners, and produced for the same year three thousand three hundred peculs.

At the upper and lower furnaces there are villages of Chinese, who are occupied in smelting the ore, burning charcoal, or transporting the tin ; some carry on small traffic with the miners, and cultivate gardens. The habitations of the miners are contiguous to their mines, and every house has its garden of vegetables, and particularly of cabbages, which are very fine. Pigs are also reared in considerable numbers, with great care and cleanliness. They are lodged upon a wooden platform, raised from the ground, near water, and are well covered, and every morning and evening the Chinese souse them with pails of water. Pork is very much esteemed by them, and is eaten on every occasion of festivity, whether of devotion or business. On opening a new mine, a hog is a necessary victim, to propitiate good luck in the undertaking.

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To the north-west of Klabat, at a distance of two hours' journey, through a thick wood, you arrive at the mines of Mampang, which were opened by twelve miners shortly before the cession to the British Government. In 1816 these mines employed thirty-four miners, but the ground is rocky and difficult to work. Here are two tolerable mines, which have yielded about two hundred and fifty peculs in the year.

Along the coast to the eastward of Mampung are the small rivers of Taynam and Jeboo, in the neighbourhood of which ten new mines were opened in the years 1814 and 1815, upon the labours of which eighty-four miners are employed. These mines had not been opened sufficiently long to afford full evidence of their produce, as much labour had been expended in clearing away the jungle, making roads to the river and the mines, and erecting the smelting house and habitations of the people newly settled. The produce of 1816 was about two hundred and fifty peculs. Mampang and Jeboo are placed
under

under the management of two natives, whose exertions are rewarded by Government with an allowance of two dollars on each pecul delivered, in consideration of which they meet all the extra charges attending the opening of new mines.

The country about Jeboo, Taynam, and Mampang, as indeed along the whole north coast, is, with the exception of the spots cleared for mines, covered with a thick forest of large trees, in which is found some valuable timber of the descriptions before mentioned.

Soongy Booloo is a village of some consequence, about seven miles N.E. by N. from Jeboos. It is situated on the other branch of the Jeboos river, which runs to the N. E. The mines of Soongy Booloo are two hours' journey from the village, through a good path, in a direction N. E. from the village. Road generally open. No large trees. Soil gravelly.

They are four in number, three large and one small, to which may be added one mine at Pamoja, further to the westward.

ward. They employ forty-eight miners, and yield seven hundred peculs of tin.

From Klabat, in a direction N. by E. distant four hours' journey, is Klabat Laot, seated on the western side of Klabat Bay. The first mile and a half of the road from Klabat is open ground, all the rest of the way lies through a thick forest of large trees. Occasional openings intervene, which have been cleared by the Orang Goonoongs, for the cultivation of a crop of rice.

Mines had been opened formerly here, but were deserted in consequence of the depredations of the pirates. In the year 1814 a few miners were set to work on this pleasant spot, and placed under the directions of the inspector at Blinyoe.

There is a small village at Klabat Laot, consisting of fifty-six Chinese, who live by fishing in the bay. There is a considerable space of open ground about it, and the ruins of a Congsee's house, built of stone. Large rocks of fine granite are found on the land. The seashore and beyond low-

low-watermark is covered with black rocks. Klabat Bay, in its whole extent, is full of rocks, shallows, and islands, leaving only a narrow channel on the eastern side by which vessels navigate to Layang. Ships of considerable burthen, with a fair wind, may venture into the channel of this spacious and beautiful bay, which, as may be seen by the map, contains three basins. A great number of the Orang Laots inhabit the shores of this bay, who, when summoned, will appear in one or two hundred little boats, which they use in fishing and collecting trepangs and agar agar. The large river Antun flows into the centre basin, fourteen miles N. W. from the mouth of which is the site of the old village of Antun. Communication between Soongy-Leat, Layang, and Jeboos, is generally carried on up this river, by which the tin of Blinyoe, Loemoot, Soongy-Leat and Marawang, used to be transported to Antun by the Orang Laots, thence overland by the Orang Goonoongs to Jeboos, and thence by sea to Palembang. This

mode of transport was adopted in the time of the Sultaun of Palembang, for better security against the pirates. That during this period the village of Antun must have been larger, appears from the abundance of cocoa-nut trees, and other marks of deserted population. The distance of Antun from the furnace village of Jeboos is seven miles, in a direction W. N. W. over a bad road, which in many places is covered with water. The soil being gravelly a substantial road might easily be made. From the mouth of the Antun river to the mouth of the Layang river, at the bottom of the bay, is a distance of fifteen miles, in a direction S. E. by E. This river is of a fine breadth at its mouth, and in a very winding course runs up to the village of Layang, in a direction of about S. S. E., at a direct distance of eleven miles.

Tanjong Mallaloo to the west, and Tanjong Pooniosoo to the east, form the boundaries of the entrance into Klabat Bay. The Dutch Commissioners, in the report

report alluded to in the foregoing part, recommended a post to be established on the point of Pooniosoo, for guarding the coast and bay against smugglers and pirates. This point, or the island of Pooniosoo, would certainly have been very eligible for a military post, had we retained the island of Banca; under the circumstances of our recent possession it was quite unnecessary. The island is about one mile from the point, and the channel into the bay leads close on the western side of it.

From Klabat Laot to the Blinyoe river, across the bay, is about nine miles. At the mouth of the river, near the projecting point of Tanjong Mantong, is a low island and sandbank, which are overflowed at high water, the channel up the river being close to the main land. The stockade of Blinyoe is about three miles from the mouth, where an inspector of mines is posted, and which is the depôt for all the mines in the neighbourhood.

The former Congsee's house, which is the residence of the inspector, has marks of the shot-holes which it received some years ago, during a desperate attack of the pirates, who were repelled by the inhabitants.

The mines about Blinyoe were formerly very productive, and are said to have yielded twelve thousand slabs, or six thousand peculs. They are now, however, very much exhausted. Those at present worked, are within a distance of an hour and a half's journey from the depôt. In 1813 there were six mines, worked by twenty-seven Chinese. In 1816 twelve mines were worked, by ninety miners, and yielded one thousand six hundred and ten peculs, including Loemoot.

The miners here formerly carried on a great trade of smuggling. During one of my first tours I had the good fortune to detect an extensive adventure of this kind. A considerable quantity of tin was found buried about the village, and clear evidence

dence was adduced against all those engaged in the plot. Besides the tin found buried, it was ascertained that a quantity had been carried off by a prow from Lingen a month before. Four of the principal delinquents were sent prisoners to Batavia, which presented a sufficient example to deter others from the like criminality for the future. This timely discovery had the best possible effects, and I have no reason to think that any such transactions occurred afterwards in any part of the island.

There is a very pretty village near the stockade at Blinyoe, which was formerly more extensive. Within two miles of this village is another, called Pandjee. Here are the ruins of substantial houses, which denote its former more enlarged state. Two small mines are here worked by sixteen miners, Malayese and Chinese.

From Blinyoe to Loemoot, by land, is about sixteen miles, along a bad pathway. The stockade of Loemoot is seated about a mile and a half from the river, at the distance

distance of six miles from its mouth. The river is narrow, and exceedingly troublesome to get up, the windings being short and sudden. This river will not admit a prow of more than four tons burthen. The mines in the vicinity of this place, within a distance of six miles, through an elevated country and a good road, are said to have produced formerly ten thousand slabs : they are now very much exhausted. Three mines are now worked by forty miners, and the produce is included in that of Blingoe.

From the mouth of Loemoot river to that of Layang is about five miles, and thence to the village of Layang, taking the traverses of the river, may be a computed distance of twenty miles ; the grandeur of the mountain of Goonoong Maras appearing in full sublimity through the whole course. The scenery of Klabat Bay, with the lofty mountain of Goonoong Maras, deserves more fertile powers of description than my imagination can command.

The

The village of Layang is inhabited by forty-eight Chinese families and a few Malayese, who carry on a small trade, and cultivate gardens. Seven mines were formerly worked here, by thirty-two miners, which are now exhausted.

From Layang to Lampoor is a journey of about four hours, in a direction E. by S.; the first part of the road, for a mile and a half, is open ground, elevated, and covered with lalang or coarse high grass, when you enter a forest, the road through which is in many places swampy, and intersected by small streams which fall into the Layang river, and in others leading over small hills, the slopes of which are worn into gullies by the rains. This forest extends over about four miles of the road, in which many very large trees of kayoo arang, or ebony, are discernible: the remaining part of the road is through open ground, covered with lalang. At Lampoor is a furnace for smelting the ore of the mines of this place, of which there are ten small ones worked by thirty-two miners, the

produce of which is included with Soongy-Leat, to which district it is subordinate.

From Lampoor to Soongy-Leat is a distance of seven miles, through a clear open country and a good road, in a direction E.S.E.

Soongy-Leat enjoys the advantage of a clear and beautiful country for some miles around it. No country can present a more pleasing aspect than this does : hill and dale, plains, rocks, and woods, unite, in various shades, to gratify the traveller with the most beautiful and diversified scenery. The appearance of this country would denote an extended cultivation formerly, which, in future times, when the population has retrieved the losses it has sustained by the ravages of pirates and misrule, may again afford additional charms to this wide waste.

Soongy-Leat is situated on a small river, which runs into the sea a short distance below the town. An inspector of mines is placed here, who superintends and collects the produce of fifty-six small
mines,

mines, worked by two hundred and twenty miners, who in the year 1816 produced four thousand peculs. In the year 1813 this district employed one hundred and eleven miners, who worked at twenty-three small mines.

At a distance of about fifteen miles journey from Soongy-Leat, along the coast to the northward, there is a small river called Mapoor. Here new mines have been opened by forty-three miners, who in the year 1816 produced three hundred and forty peculs of tin, included with Soongy-Leat.

Soongy-Leat may be considered to hold the rank next to the town of Minto. Its inhabitants consist of about ninety Chinese and as many Malayan families. There is good anchorage for ships in the bay of Soongy-Leat. In the year 1815 a gunboat, or small armed vessel for guarding the coast, whilst at anchor in this bay, was caught in a whirlwind, and foundered before the crew had time to cut the cable, and the greater part of the crew were lost.

From

From Soongy-Leat to Marawang the distance is about eight miles, on the road to which, through a clear open country, we pass many of the mines of Soongy-Leat, amongst which are those of Labucley, where you meet in great plenty small crystals of quartz, of an hexagonal form, terminating in a pyramid.

Marawang is the situation of another inspector, and a depôt for stores and collections of tin from the circumjacent mines. In the year 1813 this district employed sixty-two miners, on fifteen excavations. In the year 1816 collections were received from four large and forty-one small mines, giving employment to two hundred and ninety-five miners, who delivered six thousand peculs of tin. The village of Marawang is increased proportionably with the mines, and the population is composed almost wholly of Chinese, who consist of one hundred and forty-four families. It is distant about five miles from Pankal Booloo, on a narrow branch of the river Marawang, running to the north-

north-west. At Pankal Booloo vessels unload the stores for the district, and receive the tin for conveyance to Minto.

At the mouth of the Marawang river there is a small place called Batoe Ampat, from which there is a road to Soongy-Leat along the shore. Here the tin of Pankal Pinang, and occasionally of Marawang, is lodged, for more ready shipment and consignment to Minto.

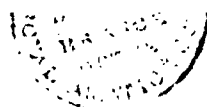
Under the administration of the Sultaun of Palembang the tin of Marawang was conveyed by the Orang Goonoongs to Layang, a distance of twenty-five miles, which imposed a severe and toilsome duty upon these innocent and simple people, from which they were relieved by our Government.

The readiest mode of communication, and the pleasantest, from Marawang to Pankal Pinang, lies to Pankal Booloo, there embarking, to descend one branch of the river within two miles of the mouth, and up the other, which leads S.S.E. to the post of the inspector of Pankal Pinang,

Pinang, the country about which is hilly and woody; but the soil in general more favourable for cultivation than the northern part of the island. The population of Orang Goonoongs is comparatively considerable in this district; and in the southern part of the island they may be said to compose the sole inhabitants, with the exception of a few Chinese miners at Toobooallie.

In the year 1813, the district of Pankal Pinang contained seventeen small mines; worked by fifty-four miners; and in the year 1816 five large and forty-four small mines employed two hundred and thirteen miners, from whom three thousand four hundred and forty peculs of tin were received.

To the southward of Pankal Pinang, about twenty-eight miles distant, on the east coast, at a place called Coba, four small mines have been opened by twenty-eight Malayese, who went from Minto for that purpose; who delivered one hundred and fifty peculs, in the year 1816,
included



included in Pankal Pinang collections. This place, which lays up a river of the same name, three hours' journey, was formerly inhabited by natives of the island, and in the Palembang books is recorded to have furnished one hundred men for feudal services. The population is now confined to the few Malayese above mentioned.

Between Pankal Pinang and Coba the following rivers intervene :

Mesoo, an inconsiderable river, only navigable by small boats. The mines of Pankal Pinang extend to the neighbourhood of this river, off the mouth of which a small guard is posted, to keep watch along the coast.

Pankool, a narrow river, similar to Meesoo Lampuyang and Manuyang, two inconsiderable rivers rather larger than the former, will admit a small description of prow called kakups.

Senomer, a small river, like those of Mesoo and Pankool.

Courrow,

Courrow, a large river of the same description as Coba. It will admit prows of the largest size, called panjajups, which will convey fifty tons of tin.

Goontoong, a small river between those of Courrow and Coba, navigable by kakups only.

Vessels never venture on these rivers, the coast being so very dangerous from the numerous rocks and shoals.

At low water the best road to Coba lies along the beach.

From Pankal Pinang a way leads to Jerakh, in a direction W. by S. distant twelve miles, over a good road and elevated country, with many appearances of Orang Goonoong cultivation. Here are twelve small mines, worked by fifty-three Orang Goonoongs and Malayese, who deliver their tin at Pankal Pinang. Jerak is situated near the river Salan, which runs into the Straits of Banca near the Nanca islands.

From Pankal Pinang, in a direction W. by N. a road leads to Pankal Mindo, passing
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ing through five Campoongs of Orang Goonoongs, and is a fatiguing journey of eight hours. Pankal Mindo is situated on the river Mindo, which runs into the Straits of Banca a little to the northward of the Nanca islands. From Pankal Mindo, to reach the mouth of the river occupies twelve hours' descent in a prow. This river, in common with all the rivers on Banca, winds very much and is very narrow, though deep, after ascending a short distance. The progress of a prow is frequently obstructed by the rapidity of the tide impelling it against the jungle on each side, which, with every caution of the crew, cannot sometimes be prevented, owing to the very short and sudden turns of the river. In the time of the Sultaun of Palembang the tin of Pankal Pinang was conveyed to Pankal Mindo overland by the Orang Goonoongs, and thence shipped on boats for transport to Palembang. From this laborious, and, as it was then, unprofitable service, they have since been relieved.

In

In my last tour of inspection I endeavoured to make a passage from the Marawang river to the southward, along the east coast to Billiton, and thence round the southern extreme of Banca to Toobooallie, the most southern post on the island. The S. E. monsoon set in, however, so strong, that the gun-boat in which I was embarked could not weather the point of Tanjong Brekat, which is a long projecting point to the eastward, on the north side of which there is good anchorage in deep water, within two miles of the shore, which is marked by a clear, gravelly, and sandy beach.

After beating about this point for two days without making any progress, I embarked in a rowing prow with the chief of the Orang Laots in the employ of Government, and, accompanied by the other prows under his orders, took advantage of the favourable tide at night to effect the passage along the coast to Kuppo. From Tanjong Brekat to this place the whole coast is very rocky. I reached the mouth
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of the Kuppo river at daylight the following morning, from whence is seen an island called Pooloo Booroong, bearing nearly due east, at a distance computed to be twelve miles. There is another island, called Pooloo Tingee, on which is a lofty hill with a sharp conical summit, bearing nearly due south.

The mouth of the Kuppo river is about eighty yards broad, and about six fathoms deep. A flat runs off for some distance, having a channel over a bar which will admit a vessel of about one hundred tons.

Kuppo is situated about six miles up this river, which is uniformly broad through this distance.

Seventy-eight Chinese are here, working at ten small mines, which were opened in the month of March 1814, when they went from Minto for this purpose; and in 1816 they delivered seven hundred and forty-eight peculs of tin into the depôt at Toobooallie, exclusive of one hundred and fifty slabs, or seventy-five peculs, which were captured by the pirates of Billiton

off the south extreme of Banca, and which were coming round in a prow to Toobooallie. The navigation from Kuppo to Toobooallie is said not to be safe for vessels of any burthen. It leads through an intricate and rocky channel, called the Salat Lepur, between the coast of Banca and some small islands, the largest of which is called Pooloo Lepur. The Orang Laots, who inhabit the coast and islands hereabouts, are called Orang Lepur. They are a wild race, whom I had hopes of making tractable and more civilized, by giving employment to them in the service of Government, as they evinced a disposition to make themselves useful immediately before the transfer.

From Kuppo on the eastern, to Toobooallie on the western coast, is a distance of five hours' journey, or twelve miles and a half, in a direction W. by N. The tin from the former is transported overland to the depôt at the latter, to avoid the intricate navigation in large vessels, and the danger from pirates if conveyed in
prows ;

prows ; half a dollar per pecul is paid for the hire of transport. The services of the Orang Lepur would have been advantageously directed on this duty, whenever the island of Billiton had become settled.

Toobooallie, the most southern depôt of the island, is situated close to Tanjong Sabong, which bears from the island of Lucipara N. 44' E. An inspector, with a military guard of forty men, is here stationed. The post and village of Toobooallie were, previous to 1814, established on a very pleasant and elevated spot, about two miles up a river, which runs into the sea three miles from Tanjong Sabong. It was here that the only catastrophe occurred in the formation of our administration, and in the extension of our authority over the island of Banca.

At the commencement of our administration, that part of the island south of Pankal-Pinang was quite overlooked, owing to the attention of the Resident being so entirely engrossed by the affairs of Palembang, the formation of a new

settlement, and the general sickness that prevailed there, as well as by the unsettled state of the valuable mine districts more immediately in its vicinity. Radeen Kling, a native chief of a Palembang family, had acquired a strong influence over the people of Toobooallie, and had formed a close connexion with the Dupattie of Billiton. They seemed disposed to act in conjunction, independently of the authority of the British Government on Banca, and had evaded every summons to attend at Minto to take the oath of allegiance, as all the other principal natives on the island had done. In the month of March 1813, the Resident was preparing to send one of the Hon. Company's cruizers, then at his disposal, to bring these chiefs to Minto. A few days before the vessel sailed, Radeen Kling made his appearance, bringing with him nineteen Lascars of the fine ship Abercromby, that had been wrecked some months previously off the coast of Billiton. The Lascars reported that they had been

been fed and kindly treated by him and his people, every offence was therefore obliterated and forgiven. His excuse for delay of attendance was the sickness of his children, which was readily admitted, as he, at the same instant, proffered his services to point out and bring away the rest of the crew of the Abercromby from the island of Billiton.

This chief, it was notorious, was smuggling all the tin he could collect at Toobooallie, and carrying it over to Billiton, where, in conjunction with the Dupattie of Billiton, he was pursuing a lawless system of piracy and plunder. On the occasion of his visit to Minto, he delivered twelve peculs of tin, as a mask to his designs. The Resident suspected the wily character of this man, but encouraged the hope that the information and influence he possessed in the neighbourhood might be turned to the advantage of the public service. A gentleman, Mr. Brown, was appointed inspector at Toobooallie: and, as he was ignorant of every language but

the English, an interpreter and writer were sent with him, and Radeen Kling was directed to give his aid to Mr. Brown in the settlement of the district.

No sooner had I received charge of the residency than letters were received from Mr. Brown, complaining of Radeen Kling, and desiring his removal from the district, which he found it impossible to controul so long as his presence was permitted. A gunboat was immediately sent to Toobooallie, with the assistance required by Mr. Brown, but the commander returned to Minto, reporting that he could not find the place, but that he had heard that Mr. Brown had left it in prows on his way to Minto. Shortly after, the few Amboy-nese soldiers who had been sent as a guard with Mr. Brown found their way back to Minto across the country, and reported that Radeen Kling, with a body of his people, had taken Mr. Brown by surprise, and had murdered him and his clerk. A military force under an officer was sent to Toobooallie immediately on
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the return of the gunboat, and orders sent round to an officer who happened then to be employed with the cruising prows of Government off Marawang, to proceed down the coast, and to endeavour to intercept Radeen Kling. On the arrival of this force at Toobooallie, the place was found totally deserted. A few Orang Gooneongs made their appearance, from whom it was ascertained that Radeen Kling, after having committed the murders, had lost no time in making his way to Billiton.

Having never seen Mr. Brown, I cannot speak from personal knowledge of his character. He was represented as a blunt honest man, to whom the fatigues of personal activity were a delight; and this disposition was, no doubt, an essential qualification for the duties of the district confided to him. But, in such a place, a total ignorance of the language, even with an interpreter, could only be compensated by intelligence of mind, and by strong powers of discrimination, and per-

ception of the characters of the individuals whom he had to conduct and controul.

Of these Mr. Brown was most likely deficient. Content with the confidence which artless simplicity inspires, he probably had no discretion in imparting his sentiments; which were delivered from an honest conviction, without consideration of their expediency with regard to circumstances or to time. Vexed that his district had been unproductive, which personal observation had, by strenuous personal activity, enabled him to know it ought not to have been, and justly tracing the cause of his vexation to the counteraction of Radeen Kling, he seems to have openly declared his opinions to this treacherous man, and to have avowed his determination of proceeding to Minto, for the purpose of rendering a full explanation to the Resident. This was the only reason that further inquiry could substantiate for the savage conduct of Radeen Kling.

The officer sent to Toobooallie very judiciously established a post at Tanjong Sabong,

Sabong, where he could command a full view of the coast to the southward, and, in case of the appearance of any prow, be prepared to resist a piratical attempt. This post, with the subsequent colonization of Kuppo, preserved the district of Toobooallie, during the remainder of our administration on Banca, free from inquietude, or incursion by the pirates.

No Chinese miners were employed in this district previous to the cession by the Sultaun of Palembang. Besides those at Kuppo, there are now only thirty-four Chinese miners working at six small mines : the works of all the other mines are carried on by the native population. Of these two hundred and twenty, under twenty-one native heads, are employed at twenty-one small mines, who, with the thirty-four Chinese miners, in the year 1816, delivered nine hundred and seventy-five peculs of tin. In the year 1814 the first deliveries from this district amounted to six hundred and twenty-five peculs.

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The native population of this district, both in appearance and character, does not accord with that of the more northern part of the island. A great intermixture of various classes of Malayese with the Orang Goonoongs, has not only occasioned a variation of countenance and manner in the people of this part of Banca, but has engendered, also, more intelligence, or perhaps, more properly speaking, cunning and duplicity, than we find amongst the untutored race to the northward.

The ground about Toobooallie appears to have been actively worked, and many places exhausted. But as the operations of the people have been limited to the more easy labours of the surface, a further speculation will hereafter be offered for seeking stratas of ore by more arduous labours at a greater depth. There is still very abundant labour for the population on their present plan, and it will require the enterprizing spirit and corporeal strength of the Chinese to overcome the difficulties of pursuing the other.

The

The Campoongs of the natives are generally formed into squares, the house of the Batin, or chief, being in the centre, and the whole is circumscribed by a fence. The habitations are comfortable and neat, though small, and generally raised some feet from the ground. The people in this part of the island, if they have inclination, will not be defective of spirit and ability to resist the inroads of pirates.

I shall now deliver a short account of the island of Billiton, the accuracy of which I cannot rest upon any other foundation than the best information I was enabled to obtain.

This island was ceded by the Sultaun of Palembang, and is included in the deed of cession of the island of Banca, being therein specifically mentioned. Under instructions from the Government of Java, a native chief was directed to be sent by the Resident at Banca, to hold authority over the island, which he was to administer in the name and under the appointment of the British Government. A native chief,
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by name Rajah Akil, of the ancient family that possessed sovereign dominion over the country of Siak, in the N.E. part of Sumatra, nearly opposite to Malacca, was selected for this purpose.

The father of Rajah Akil had confided to an Arab the administration of the affairs of his country, who, employing the favour and authority bestowed upon him to forward his own aggrandizement, at length succeeded in expelling the family of his benefactor, and usurping the sovereign authority over the country of Siak.

Rajah Akil fled with his family to Lingen, whence he came to Minto. In the course of his residence at Lingen, he had frequently visited Billiton, and had acquired a knowledge of the country, and of the chiefs inhabiting it.

In the year 1815 he was sent by the Resident to Billiton, with a letter to the Dupattie, enjoining that chief to come to Minto, and offering him assurances of safety and protection on his way to Minto and on his return. He was informed, at
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the same time, of Rajah Akil's appointment as chief of the Island of Billiton, whom he was called upon to aid and assist, and to withdraw himself from all connexion with Radeen Kling. Conforming to these requisitions, he was told that he would receive the appointment of a chief in subordination to Rajah Akil, and all the privileges annexed to it: on the contrary, his refusal would be considered an act of rebellion against the British Government, and subject him to punishment accordingly.

Rajah Akil, having received the necessary supply of provisions and equipment for his prows, set sail from Minto, and proceeded to Sedjoo, on the north coast of Billiton. On his arrival he found the inhabitants ready and willing to acknowledge the authority of Government, and from hence he sent the letter to the Dupattie of Billiton. Here he received information of a design formed by the Dupattie of Billiton, in conjunction with Radeen Kling, to attack him with their
united

united strength. Radeen Kling had planned to attack him by sea, at the same time that the Dupattie, who was to march across the country, invested him by land. The station of Radeen Kling was at Belantu, on the south coast of the island; that of the Dupattie at Cheruchup, on the western coast, which is considered the principal river and place on the island. In anticipation of their combined attack, Rajah Akil, leaving his prows at Sedjoo, marched at night to Cheruchup, a distance of six hours' march, and came upon the Dupattie before he had time to collect his men. The contest was very short, for the Dupattie having fallen, his followers immediately ran away. Rajah Akil then returned to Minto, and requested further aid to enable him to overcome Radeen Kling, and the piratical chiefs acting with him. These chiefs consisted of Panglima Daleem, belonging to Cadawang, a river situated in the province of Matan on the south-western coast of Borneo, who had a considerable number of prows employed in

in acts of piracy; of Rajah Jeena, Rajah Mahommed, Penglima Etam, and Penglima Ibang, from the islands and places about Lingen, who were also in confederation with Radeen Kling.

To this account is annexed an outline of the island, according to the information received from Rajah Akil. This may convey some knowledge of the position of the villages and rivers, but cannot be depended upon as a correct chart of the island, to which it has no pretension. The number of inhabitants on the whole island are said to amount to two thousand, or more. The produce of the island and coasts consists of trepangs, agar agar, birdsnests, kayoo garoo, or kalembek, honey, wax, dammer, and iron in considerable quantity, which is principally esteemed for making the blades of creeses. Tin is also said to be found on Billiton, but this opinion perhaps rests on the sales of the smuggled tin from Banca. Rice is cultivated by the inhabitants, in like manner with the people of Banca, to whom the natives have

have a close resemblance. They would cheerfully receive the authority of any Government, in preference to the lawless banditti to whom they are now exposed.

This island may still be considered to appertain to us, according to the cession of the Sultaun of Palembang, as no mention is made of it in the convention of 1814 with the Netherlands' Government.

Returning to Toobooallie, from whence our attention was directed to Billiton, we take leave of all further mention of Chinese miners or people, the population of the places we have further to notice, which lay along the western coast, being entirely composed of Malayese and Orang Goonoongs.

Passing from Toobooallie towards Minto, at a distance of about eight miles, is a small river called Neerie, the entrance of which is very shoal; the population is included in the account of Toobooallie. Seven miles further is the river Oolim, which is also small. About eight miles up this river, which one mile beyond its mouth

mouth is only navigable for canoes, there is a small stockade for security of the Jernang, or native chief, and his people, who are placed here. There are twelve Campoongs in the neighbourhood of this place, having a population of two hundred and sixty-seven persons, of all ages. They have produced one hundred and fifty peculs of tin in a year, from five small mines, which is delivered at Minto, or at Too-booallie, according as opportunities offer for its conveyance. They likewise collect annually about twenty peculs of wax.

Eight miles from Oolim is the river Ballar, or Surdang. The Campoong is situated near the source of this river, about thirteen hours' journey in a canoe from the mouth. The navigation being interrupted by the overhanging jungle on each side, will not readily admit a prow. The jungle has been permitted to obstruct the passage, as a security against pirates, who some years ago, carried off no less than two hundred and fifty persons from this part of the country, and many others

in subsequent years. The inhabitants used to carry on an extensive traffic in mats, honey, and wax. The population is now reduced to ninety-one of all ages; the Campoong is distant ten hours' journey from Banca Cotta, through a bad road.

A native chief, called a Dupattie, is charged with this place, where he has opened two small mines, the produce of which has been delivered at Minto, in small quantities.

Between Ballar and Permisan are three small rivers, Cabal, Enross, and Nyou, which are not worthy of notice. The village of Permisan stands at the foot of the mountain of that name, about eight miles from the shore. Two small mines are worked near the shore, the produce of which has been delivered at Minto, to the amount of about fifty peculs. Wax is collected from the mountain in quantity not exceeding four peculs annually.

Permisan, or Bassoon, is distant seven hours' journey from Banca Cotta; the other Campoong is twelve hours' journey
from

from the same place. The two have a population of one hundred and sixty-three persons, of all ages.

A few miles N.W. of Permisan Hill is the entrance of the river of Banca Cotta, which, though not very broad, is a fine river, and continues of the same breadth all the way up to the town, which is situated nine miles from the mouth of the river.

The town contains now a population of one hundred and seventy persons only, but it appears to have been much more populous. Many of the inhabitants have been carried off by pirates, and others by the Palembang people, under pretext of services due for debts incurred. The country in the vicinity of Banca Cotta does not offer much expectation of produce in tin; mats, honey, and wax are the articles of trade amongst this people. The town is under the controul of a Demang, whose authority extends over five Campoongs. The population of the Cam-

poongs include about one hundred and fifty persons.

The mouth of the river Salan, which is near the Nanca Islands, is very shoal. It is a large river, running up to Jerak, as before-mentioned.

Two small rivers, Samboolan and Penagoong, intervene between the Salan and the Mindo rivers. The latter is a large river, broad at the entrance, but intricate of access, owing to the shoals which run off from it. The Orang Goonoongs, who are numerous in this part of the country, are principally employed in the cultivation of rice, and assisting in the mines of Pankal Pinang. I have already given some description of this river in the account of that district.

About eight miles from the mouth of the Mindo river is the entrance of the Kotabringin river. A shoal runs off to a distance of four miles, which renders it inaccessible to prows, excepting at high water. The river winds very much, and the
the

the town is situated on a small branch of it, at a distance of nine miles from the sea. It contains a population of forty-seven persons.

The Demang of this place is vested with authority over the native population in this part of the country, and, under the Sultaun, was charged to prevent smuggling and piracy between Tanjong Poony and Banca Cotta.

About seven miles westward of this last river, is the small river of Tempelang. The town so called is about half a mile from the beach, and contains fifty persons, residing in a small quadrangular fort, built of brick and stone, the walls of which are ten feet high and two feet thick, with many shot holes, bearing the marks of the siege it sustained from pirates. Some years ago this part of the country was very productive in tin; the mines are now nearly exhausted, and very little is produced for delivery at Minto.

The river Jeering is a large river, with a very broad entrance, navigable for prows

to a considerable distance. Mines were opened in the neighbourhood of this river in the year 1814, but the attempt was not attended with success.

The river Sukal is a small river, near Tanjong Poony, remarkable only for a bed of oysters of very large size, but which when fresh are well flavoured.

A general account of the population of the island is contained in the Appendix. The character of the Orang Goo-noongs, or natives of Banca, may be expressed in a few words. They are an honest, simple, tractable, and obedient people; in personal appearance much more attractive than the same description of people at Palembang. The pure Chinese inhabitants are an orderly, decent, and respectable class of people, in which favourable view many of the miners may be also included.

Amongst the lower classes of Chinese inhabitants and miners, many have brought with them the vicious habits they imbibed in their native country, and may be described

scribed of a turbulent and dissipated character. They however constitute so much the minority, that they are easily restrained and kept in subordination, by the discipline of authority, and the influence of the better example of those around them.

The miners are a laborious class of people, excited to their arduous task by the cheering expectation of reward commensurate with their toils, added to the speculative hope that a lucky hit of a rich vein of ore may enhance their fortunes beyond the ordinary means of accumulation.

The Malayese are a peaceable indolent class of people, whose character, both at Banca and Palembang, is perfectly free from the reproach of ferocity.

The Orang Laots of Banca would, I apprehend, correspond much in character with the people of Borneo and Billiton, who engage in piracy and smuggling; and to such adventures they would probably resort, did they not experience the comforts of settled life and regular subsistence by

employment from Government, in addition to their resources of fishing. They, with the Orang Goonoongs, may be considered daily improving in their habits and intelligence, by intercourse with Europeans, and under the protection of European authority.

The tin mines of the island of Banca have been noticed only within the last hundred and twenty years, and the discovery of this valuable production of the island is related to have been made on the occasion of the conflagration of one of the native houses. It may perhaps, however, be traced, with a much higher degree of probability, to the practice of burning the forest, preparatory to the cultivation of a space of ground intended for a crop of rice, which, antecedent to the knowledge of the existence of the mines, would constitute the main pursuit of the population. In rooting up and burning the large trees, the earth, for a few feet below the surface, would necessarily become exposed to a considerable degree

degree of heat from the large masses of fired timber; and as the dryest and hottest month of the year is selected by the natives for igniting the woods previously cut down and dried, every circumstance of this conjecture favours probability, in preference to the accidental burning of one of their light and slight insignificant dwellings, the heat arising from which could only act upon the surface, and therefore could be hardly conceived to operate with sufficient energy to bring the metallic particle below into a state of fusion and combination. Tin very much resembles silver, when first formed into a mass out of a fluid state from the furnace: if, therefore, only a small volume of the metal were found in the manner above supposed, it would strongly excite the attention of the discoverer. He would be urged by motives of fear from concealment, and by expectation of interest to a disclosure to his despotic Prince of the treasures to be expected from the soil. The gravity of this metal, and the intelligence

ligence of the Chinese residing at Palembang, would soon bring to the conviction of the Sultaun its true character and description, and induce him to encourage a colony of Chinese on the island, through whose spirit of enterprize and industry he might expect to reap the greatest advantage, from the alluring prospect presented by this recent discovery.

The establishment of Chinese miners on the island has been coeval with the production of tin, and their numbers have been preserved by annual importation, brought by the China junks. The vacancies by casualties, of the death of some, and of the return of others to their native country, enriched by their successful industry, were carefully supplied by the Congsees or administrators of the mines, who annually sent a confidential and competent Chinese agent by the junk returning from Palembang to China, to invite efficient and select men to adventure the emigration to Banca. This agent was particular in his choice of the province
from

from whence he drew his recruits, giving the preference to the natives of that district who, to bodily strength, added the character of being patient and tractable in their disposition. Thus he obtained men competent to the labours on which they were to be employed, and at the same time guarded against the evils of profligacy and insubordination, so much to be apprehended from a collective body of unlettered men. The agreement of the agent with these men was arranged previous to their departure. The expences of their voyage and establishment was to be defrayed by the Congsee, who was to be reimbursed from their first profits at the mines upon which they worked. Until they had liquidated the obligations they thus incurred, and cleared all subsequent debts, they were not permitted to relinquish the labours of the mines.

When the island of Banca was ceded to Great Britain, the deficiency of Chinese miners became very soon evident, and the Government of Java, in consequence, in-

timated

minated to the Select Committee of the Honourable Company at Canton the requisition for a number of Chinese being sent to Banca. Three ships were in consequence freighted with all sorts of Chinese indiscriminately; whom the commanders of the ships could obtain to adventure their fortunes on Banca, for each of whom landed on Banca they received at the rate of thirty dollars per man. During the first three months of the year 1814 no less than one thousand five hundred and eighty-seven Chinese were thus landed at Minto. The settlement of our establishment there was just then completed, and many inconveniencies, to the Chinese as well as to us, attended the first importation of such a numerous body of the lowest order of men. The expense attending this importation amounted to forty-seven thousand six hundred and ten Spanish dollars; and although, on a comparative view of the increased deliveries of produce, during this and the subsequent two years, our advantages cannot be denied from the
direction

direction of the labours of these people at the old, and at the opening of new mines, we have yet to lament that all our exertions have only tended to augment the value and importance of a possession we did not intend to keep, and, while we have been labouring at the plough and sowing the seed, we have the mortification to behold the harvest destined to enrich those who have neither had any share in our burthens, nor afforded any aid to our toils.

In opening a new mine, the ground is previously examined by an experienced miner. A plain between two low hills, near a stream of water, is generally considered to offer favourable expectation of a stratum of ore. The ground being selected for trial, an iron borer, with a small conical scoop at the bottom, terminating in a point, is then driven perpendicularly into the ground, and the man employed judges by the feeling and sound when he is come to the stratum of ore, which he pierces with the borer, and then draws up.

up. The scoop brings up in it a specimen of the ore, which is then washed, and the metallic particles separated from the earth with which it is intermixed; being found sufficiently rich, they proceed to ascertain the direction in which the stratum runs. If the ore is found within ten feet of the surface, which is frequently the case, and sometimes at a less depth, particularly in the eastern districts, their labours become very simple. The mine, in such a case, is called a coolit, which in Malayese signifies skin or surface. This they work by cutting away the earth progressively, and detaching the part which contains the ore from the remainder.

If the stratum of ore be found at a depth of three or four fathoms, the mine is called a coolong, and the labours become more arduous, expensive, and intricate. In the first instance, the miners dig out a large square excavation round the spot where they have ascertained by the borer that ore is to be found, and to the corresponding depth, that they may ascertain the

the direction in which it runs, and according thereto prolong the excavation, which they carry on until the stratum of ore disappears. They then examine the ground around with a view to recover the vein, or to trace a new one, which they may pursue by the application of the channels, trenches, and other works already formed. If they fail in this attempt, the mine is considered exhausted, and they endeavour to find a productive spot at a greater distance, so as to enable them to apply as much as possible their former works. Failing in this endeavour, they abandon the spot altogether.

In carrying on these deep and extensive excavations, it will be very evident that the miners will have occasion to employ machinery to draw up the water occupying the bottom of the mine, either from springs or falling rains.

This they execute by means of an ingenious and simple contrivance, the description of which, traced from memory only, may fail to convey a just idea thereof.

A wheel,

A wheel, from six to eight feet in diameter, is placed at the edge of the mine, and is turned by the falling of a stream of water, conducted through a channel made to the level of the top of the wheel. To the axis of the wheel is affixed small square flat boards or cogs, corresponding in breadth and depth to the links of an instrument called a talee ayer, which draws up the water from the mine through a trough. The trough is placed in an oblique position, reaching from the surface of the ground at the top of the mine to the depth at which the miners have made the excavation, where it is firmly fixed, and the waters at the bottom are made to incline towards it. At the bottom of the trough a spindle is fixed, round which flat boards or cogs, exactly corresponding with those at the axle, and which also fit the links of the talee ayer, are made to revolve. The length of the trough is adjusted to the depth of the excavation, and the number of the links of the talee ayer fitted to the distance between the axle

axle of the wheel and the spindle at the bottom of the trough. Each link of the talee ayer is made so as to turn and perform one revolution with the cog or flat board, which, in the operation of the machine, it lays hold of at the axle and at the bottom of the trough. The breadth of the links forming the talee ayer is made to fit as close as possible to the sides of the trough, and of corresponding height.

As the fall of the water turns the wheel, the cogs at the axle and spindle of the trough turn each link successively, so that whilst one half of the links are descending the other half are rising up in the channel of the trough, and as closely as practicable to the sides thereof, each link bringing up with it a proportion of water out of the mine, which is carried off, along with the water falling upon the wheel, by a channel contrived and cut for this purpose. One wheel will bring into action two of these talee ayers, which generally is sufficient ; but some of the larger mines, or those in particularly low situations, may

may require two or three wheels to draw off the water sufficiently from the bottom of the mine where the ore is to be taken out.

To form the necessary aqueducts for conveying the water to turn the wheel and to carry off the water brought up from the mine, and to discharge that of the former channel after performing its office, constitutes the laborious part of the mining operations. In some instances, I have seen channels constructed eleven hundred yards in length. The ore frequently runs across or through a small rivulet, or through low ground subject to floodings : in such cases they are obliged to divert the course of the stream, or to raise what they call tubuts, or embankments, to prevent the waters rushing into the mine. These embankments are equally necessary, also, to confine the waters which may be required to give a stream of water either for turning the wheel or to wash the ore.

These works having been accomplished, as the necessities of the mine may require,

require, the miners have no further difficulty in extending the excavation and digging out the ore; of which having collected a sufficient quantity, they deposit it in a trench, or bunder, as they call it, lined at the bottom and at the sides with planks of wood or the bark of trees, over which a stream of water is made to pass, and, whilst the water is running over it, the miners, at their several stations, move the ore about with their mamoties, or spades, which loosening the clay, all the earthy particles are carried down by the stream, and the ore, by its gravity, subsides at the bottom of the trench, whence it is taken out and dried, and afterwards carried to the furnace for smelting.

In case the stratum in which the ore is found should be stony or gravelly, in washing the ore the miners use a basket, which they fill with the earth containing the ore, which, being opposed to the stream, and shaken, acts as a sieve, leaving the stones in the basket to be thrown out.

The Coolit mines, equally with those of the Coolong, require the trench and stream of water for washing the ore, and need all the labours and precautions for securing a body of water, in case the situations of them do not afford a sufficient collection from the occasional rains.

Although the Coolong mines are so much more laborious, intricate, and tardy in yielding their profits, compared with those of the Coolit, yet the ore from them being found in close veins, is so much more productive at the furnace, and so much larger in quantity, that the Coolong mines are, if at all successful, so very beneficial to the miners, that they prefer the speculation of large profits to the smaller gains of the lesser mines.

In opening a new mine of the Coolong description, the miners expect a gratuity, or tiap, as they call it; from Government, to assist their expenses in the hire of labourers, in carrying on the preliminary works of their embankments and water-courses : according to the difficulties which,

which, on inspection, I have observed they had to encounter, I used, as an encouragement to their undertaking, to extend to them a grant of from one to three hundred dollars, which, as it was well merited, was always well bestowed, and Government were repaid by the satisfaction and spirit it inspired amidst their labours.

The miners, in digging the excavations, have the following appellations for the different strata they pass through :

1st. Tobwhey, the upper stratum, composed of decayed vegetable substances mixed with earth.

2d. Tobwhey-sangsoi, the second stratum, composed of a mixture of sand and tobwhey.

3d. Pekké, white clay, which sometimes forms the second stratum. From the appearance of this stratum their expectations are formed of the quantity of the ore : if blueish white, they anticipate abundance ; if cadaverous, or fine white, they expect very little.

Below pekké comes sand of the following characteristics : sangsoi, coarse sand ; meesoi, fine sand ; junkkeh, a mixture of sand and white clay.

Then follows towchansoi, the vein of ore. Below towchansoi there sometimes follow pekké and junké, and a second vein of ore, called takkangsoi, which is the richest.

In their works of the mines, cheecha is the water-wheel ; eheckow the channel of water that turns the wheel ; chungkow the channel that carries off the water ; pee-tow, or the Malayan name tubut, the dam or embankment to retain the water ; choonchweekoo, the embankment to divert the stream from the mine ; swakow or bundur, the trench in which the ore is deposited for washing.

In the district of Toobooallie particularly, the native population have been accustomed, when finding a vein of ore not very deep, to dig a hole, and then scrape the ore out under ground, to the extent they found it practicable to carry on

on such plan of operation, in their simple manner, which the Malayese, in describing, call working like rats. The ground about Toobooallie has been very much undermined in this way, as also that at Rangaw, above Kuppo.

The mines of Jeboos, Klabat, and Soongy-Boooloo are, many of them, Coo-longs. The principal mines of Jeboos are called Soongy-Tango, Tynam, Soentek, or Soongy-Boolak, and Siam Ingmi, each of which gives employment to thirty miners and upwards, who hold the mine, besides occasional labourers, which the miners frequently employ on daily hire, to expedite and ease their work. At Soongy-Boolak, the miners fell upon a vein of ore they call cho, three feet and a half deep, which is considered to be particularly rich, and which was found imbedded in a whitish yellow clay.

The mines of Soonie and Singhing, of Klabat, are also two very large and productive mines, each of them worked by upwards of thirty miners. The exami-

nation of these two mines would convey to the spectator a perfect conception of the works I have before mentioned.

At the mine of Singhing, during my first inspection of that mine, the miners had excavated a Coolong eighty fathoms long, twenty-five broad, and three fathoms and a half deep, from which they had taken ore sufficient for thirty nights' smelting, or upwards of six hundred pe-culs of tin.

In the eastern districts, the mine of Kimsa, within a mile and a half of Marawang, is the largest, and employs about thirty miners. This mine is very productive.

With rare exceptions, the ore may be said to run in horizontal strata from W. to E., at a depth not exceeding six fathoms, most commonly between three and four. Sometimes the stratum will incline a little, but this is always considered a case of difficulty. I have only heard of one instance, a mine in the neighbourhood of Blinjoe, where the ore had

had such inclination as to prevent the miners from pursuing it, their machinery not being adapted to draw up the water much beyond the depth of six fathoms.

The ore is generally found intermixed with a white mixture of sand and clay, in small grains of a grey black colour, and which, after being washed at the furnace, yields not more than seventy pounds of tin from one hundred pounds of ore, nor less than in the proportion of thirty to one hundred; the usual proportion may be taken at sixty to one hundred. If the ore yields less than twenty-five to one hundred, the mine is considered unprofitable, and is accordingly abandoned. The quality of the charcoal used in the smelting of the ore will increase or decrease the proportion of metal produced from the ore.

The only peculiarity of the furnace is the bellows, or poopoot, which is made from the trunk of a large tree, hollowed out into a cylindrical form, into which a piston is inserted at each end. The piston

ton is formed of a circular base of wood, with valves which fit into the cylinder of the bellows. In the centre of this circular base is fixed a long handle, by which the men work it. A piston being attached to each half of the cylinder, whilst one piston is drawing out by the two Chinese working at one end, the two Chinese attached to the piston at the other end are pushing that in, by which means a constant current of air is supplied to the furnace: the bellows being placed horizontally at the back of the furnace.

They begin to smelt about six o'clock in the evening, and by the next morning each furnace will have smelted forty slabs, or twenty peculs of tin, the estimated quantity of a night's smelting at a large furnace. The smaller furnaces will smelt from ten to fifteen peculs.

The dross which remains is considered the perquisite of the toocan poopoot, or smelter, who afterwards obtains from it a small quantity more of the metal: but the

the miners generally look sharp, to allow of as little dross as possible. Each slab weighs half a pecul, or sixty-seven English pounds.

The Orang Goonoongs, in smelting their ore, have a row of three or four small wooden bellows and pistons placed perpendicularly, and applied to small furnaces, which smelt from ten to twenty of their slabs, which weigh one-third of a pecul each.

The accounts annexed to Appendix No. X, of the collections of tin, on the island of Banca for the Honourable East-India Company, for the years 1813, 1814, 1815 and 1816, will afford full demonstration of the value of this island with regard to its metallic produce. During the last fourteen months included in this period, the daily expectation of the cessation of our interests on the island necessarily paralyzed all efforts of further extension of the mines, which, if attempted, would only have involved public expense, without prospect of public benefit.

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An account is also annexed, comprising the years 1814, 1815, and 1816, shewing the charges of administration of the island of Banca for those years, with the sums derived from the sales of tin, the profits from the sales of stores and merchandize, and the revenues, with the net profits accruing to the public from this possession during those successive periods.

More conclusive evidence cannot be adduced of the intrinsic value of this beautiful island, which would, by the enlargement of its population, the extension of industry, cultivation and trade, have given yearly additional proofs of increased importance, and progressive benefit to the parent state.

The position of this island, also, lying in the direct track of our China trade; the fine harbour it possesses in Klabat Bay, where, in case of necessity, during war, our ships could find security and protection, and be placed in a situation impervious to any attack; will present considerations to attach strong political importance

importance to this possession, independent of every advantage to be derived from commerce or revenue.

This is the island which we have delivered in exchange for Cochin, on the Malabar Coast : a settlement which, under the existing circumstances of our empire in India, is of trivial political importance, and, as it appears from Sir T. S. Raffles' History of Java, that the Dutch Government had, at one period, contemplated to abandon their settlement of Cochin, as entailing a burthensome expense, without yielding any adequate advantages to their commerce ; the acquisition of this possession, with respect to revenue or commerce, is placed in great disparity, as an equivalent for the sovereignty of Banca.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

TREATY of Peace, Friendship, and Alliance, entered into between the RESIDENT of PALEMBANG and BANCA, on the Part of the JAVA GOVERNMENT, and the SULTAUN of PALEMBANG, MAHMOOD BADR-AL-DEEN.

Article I. In the first place, the Sultaun Mahmood Badr-al-Deen acknowledges the impropriety of his conduct last year towards the Java Government, and declares that what he did was occasioned by the false information and bad advice of persons, who misrepresented to him the views and intention of the English Government in coming to Palembang. He now humbly requests to be forgiven for those unfortunate proceedings, and to be restored to the government of Palembang; promising, in future, to conduct himself in all things with fidelity and respect, as a sovereign dependent of the Honourable East-India Company and the Government of Java.

II. The Sultaun solemnly denies having ordered or having been any way privy to the murder of the late Dutch Factory, and agrees, on condition of his life

life being spared, to give up his eldest son, the Pangerang Rattoo, who was suspected of being instrumental in that unpardonable transaction, to the discretion of the Java Government. He further agrees to deliver up to Government, unconditionally, any other persons who may hereafter be found to have been guilty of that murder.

III. The Resident, on the part of the Government, consents to pardon the Sultaun Mahmood Badr-al-Deen, and to receive him back into their favour and protection as Sultaun of Palembang, provided the reigning Sultaun also agrees to it, on the following conditions.

IV. The Sultaun shall send one of his sons, together with two of his principal officers, to Batavia, to do homage to the Java Government.

V. On account of the expenses of the expedition sent last year against him, the Sultaun agrees to pay to the Government the sum of four hundred thousand Spanish dollars; whereof two hundred thousand shall be paid down, and the rest in the time of two years, either in produce, at the price agreed upon with the Resident, or in money.

VI. The Sultaun agrees to supply the Government yearly with fifteen thousand peculs of pepper, at the rate of three Spanish dollars per pecul of one hundred and twenty-five Dutch pounds, to be delivered into store at Minto, or on board such vessels as may be sent for it at the mouth of the Palembang river; and whatever quantity of pepper and cotton he may be able to collect this year in the country, he will procure

cure and deliver, without delay, to Government, in diminution of the sum of two hundred thousand dollars remaining to be paid.

VII. The Sultaun promises to cause the old fort of the Dutch Factory at Palembang to be rebuilt of masonry, with as little delay as possible, according to the plan thereof that will be furnished him by the Resident, or else to pay the sum of twenty thousand Spanish dollars and furnish coolies for the Government to build it; the Resident agreeing, in case the Sultaun undertakes the work, to give any assistance of the people and means at his disposal in getting it completed.

VIII. Whatever opium may be required for consumption in the territory of Palembang, the Sultaun agrees to purchase of the Java Government at the current price of that article at Palembang; provided, however, that the price is never to be less than eleven hundred Spanish dollars for each chest.

IX. The Sultaun promises a general pardon to all his subjects, high and low, of every class and denomination. That no violence or injustice shall be done to any person on his return to Palembang; and that he will henceforth rule his people with equity and moderation, according to the laws.

X. The cession of the islands of Banca and Billiton to the Honourable East-India Company is hereby confirmed; and the Sultaun engages, if the Java Government should place those islands under the government of his brother, the Sultaun Najm-al-Deen, that he and all his followers, and whoever may choose to ac-

company him, shall be allowed to go unmolested, and the Sultaun will render to him every assistance and encouragement consistent with the truest friendship.

XI. If the Government should deem it advisable to open a communication from Palembang with Bencoolen or the Lampoong country, the Sultaun engages to render every aid and assistance in his power in furtherance of this object.

XII. This treaty of peace, friendship, and alliance, made with the free will and sincerity of both parties, shall be observed, to the true intent and meaning of its several provisions, for the mutual benefit of the Sultaun of Palembang and the Honourable East-India Company, and be regarded as a memorial of peace and amity for ever.

Done at Mararawas, on Tuesday, the 29th day of June 1813.

(Duly signed.)

Additional Articles of Treaty, to be formed into one, with those agreed upon at Mararawas, on the Return of the old Sultaun to Palembang.

I. The Sultaun Najm-al-Deen to have the country called the Ogan, instead of Banca, with the title and respect of Sultaun of Ogan, and to live in the small palace called the Pangerang Ratoos.

II. The Resident agrees to pay the Sultaun Najm-al-Deen, to set himself up as Sultaun of Ogan, and

to

to pay debts contracted, the sum of twenty thousand Spanish dollars; and the Sultaun Badr-al-Deen is to repay the Resident this sum, in consideration of his using his endeavours with the Government of Java to procure for the Sultaun Badr-al-Deen the Banca contract intended to have been given to his brother.

III. The opium farm at Palembang to continue as sold for the rest of the year.

IV. The Sultaun Najm-al-Deen to be allowed to trade freely in every thing, excepting what is farmed out.

V. The slaves which the Sultaun Badr-al-Deen left behind, and are now distributed amongst his family, are not to be taken back by him; and his Pangerangs and Mantries, elevated to such rank by the Sultaun Najm-al-Deen, are still to retain their rank and titles.

VI. The Resident having required that the Sultaun Najm-al-Deen should be declared successor to the throne of Palembang, the Sultaun Badr-al-Deen promises to leave that point to the decision of the Java Government; and any other minor points not understood hereafter to be referred to Government, and decided by their arbitration.

Signed and sealed at Mararawas,

Resident of the Dutch East India Company,

for the Dutch East India Company,

and the Dutch East India Company,

and the Dutch East India Company,

and the Dutch East India Company,

No. II.

TREATY between the ENGLISH GOVERNMENT and the
SULTAUN RATO O AHMUD NAJM-AL-DEEN.

Article I. The treaty formerly concluded between the Honourable English East-India Company and the Sultaun Rato O Ahmud Najm-al-Deen, at the time of his elevation to the throne of Palembang, is hereby confirmed, in so far as is stipulated in Articles the first, third, fourth, and seventh of that treaty; all other articles therein contained being declared void, and are hereby annulled.

II. The Sultaun Ahmud Najm-al-Deen, engages to open a road of communication with Bencoolen and the Lampoong country, whenever the English East-India Company may wish it.

III. The Sultaun engages to deliver whatever produce of his country may be required by the English East-India Company, at proper and reasonable prices.

IV. The Honourable English East-India Company having engaged to protect and assist the deposed Sultaun Mahmood Badr-al-Deen, the Sultaun Ahmud Najm-al-Deen engages to make such provision for him as may be arranged by the Political Agent, with the sanction of the Commissioners acting under powers from the English Government.

V. The Sultaun engages to grant to the Honourable English East-India Company whatever spot of ground may be selected by the English Resident for the erection of a fort and factory.

VI. The

VI. The Sultaun engages not to erect any fortifications, without giving previous notice and obtaining the sanction of the Resident.

Signed, sealed, and delivered at Palembang, on the 3d day of the moon Ramazan 1228, or 21st August 1813.

(Signed)

(Signed)

POLITICAL AGENT.

SULTAUN NAJM-AL-DEEN.

PANGERANG PRABO ANUM.

PANGERANG ADAPATTIE.

PANGERANG ARIA KASUMA.

Explanatory of the Fourth Article.

The Sultaun engages, in fulfilment of the stipulations provided by Article IV, to provide two coyangs of rice monthly to the deposed Sultaun; and further, one hundred men as rowers, and two hundred for work; but this number of men is not to be considered a daily allowance, but only for particular and urgent occasions.

The Sultaun further engages to grant a spot of ground to the deposed Sultaun, for the purpose of catching buffaloes.

If any dispute shall arise between the Sultaun, Ratoe Ahmud Najm-al-Deen and the deposed Sultaun, the Sultaun engages to submit the question to the British Resident, and to abide by his decision.

Approved, and signed by the Commissioners.

No. III.

Names of DOOSUNS, number of CAMPOONGS, &c. of the District comprised under the Head of ANAK MOOSEE.

Names of Doosun and Streams.	No. of Campoongs.	No. of Men.	Annual Deliveries to the Sultan of Palembang.
Soongee Keekeem.....	40	400	Pepper 10,000 guntongs, delivered on payment. Tribute 100 dollars.
Soongee Kalingee	17	100	Pepper 10,000 guntongs, delivered on payment.
Dalam Kalingee Soewara Sekap	1	12	
Soongee Beleeteo Doosun Kitee ...	14	24	Pepper 10,000 guntongs on payment. Tribute 6,000 guntongs Paddy.
Soongee Lakeetan Doosun Lobo Pandan	5	32	
Soongee Rawas.....	24	400	Teeban 1,000 dollars in payment of various articles.
Soongee Roopeat Anak Rawas	11	200	Delivers in payment 10,000 guntongs Pepper. 60,000 pieces of Gumbir.
Ooloo Rawas.....	—	—	Tribute 5,000 pieces of Gumbir, six dollars weight of gold dust.
Soongee Kroo	5	50	Rice, delivers Tribute 10,000 of Paddy.
Soongee Panukal	12	50	Rice, delivers Tribute 2,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Soongee Abub	—	43	Delivers Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Soongee Batung Lako ..	2	12	
Soongee Awer Dooree..	2	9	Tribute 500 guntongs of Paddy and 20 dollars.

No. IV.

Names of DOOSUNS, number of CAMPOONGS, and number of MEN, recorded on the Palembang Books as rendering feudal Services, in the District of MOOSEE.

Names of Doosuns.	No. of Campoongs.	No. of Men.	Annual Deliveries to the Sultaun.
Rantoo Bayoor Sekáp ..	1	7	Tribute 1,600 guntongs of Paddy
Karang Preeok Sekáp ..	1	6	
Talok Keecheeng	1	4	Tribute 1,600 guntongs of Paddy.
Tamboon Toolang	1	—	
Leemoo Nepis Sekap dalam	1	5	
Dáno Challa	1	6	Tribute 1,500 guntongs of Paddy.
Booaya Lango Sekáp ..	1	30	
Lampátan Sekáp dalam	4	45	
Panareekan	1	2	
Páwa	1	2	Tribute 1,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Rantoo panjang	1	6	Tribute 1,200 guntongs of Paddy.
Karang waroo	1	10	Tribute 2,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Láwang Weetun	9	100	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Panjoong Pekayoo	8	100	
Mangoolak	7	100	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Moorarawas	1	5	
Moora lakutan Sekáp ..	2	24	
Semangos Sekáp	4	50	
Pooloo Panggoong	16	100	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Tanjong Jatee	6	100	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Palbooaan Bingat	5	—	In payment 10,000 guntongs of Pepper.
Tanjong raya ámpat la- wang	16	20	Tribute 40 dollars.
Lantang Kánan	8	20	Tribute 40 dollars.
Lantang Keeree	7	20	Tribute 40 dollars.
Tada Jeen	16	20	Tribute 40 dollars.
Mandaoor	11	100	Tribute 14,000 guntongs of Paddy

No. V.

Account of DOOSUNS, number of CAMPOONGS, and of MEN rendering feudal Services in the District of LAMATANG, a Branch of the River Moosee.

Names of Doosuns.	No. of Campoongs.	No. of Men.	Annual Deliveries to the Sultan.
Soonghee Rooten	1	12	Tribute 3,800 guntongs of Paddy.
Dano Tampang	1	12	
Soodee Mara	1	4	
Duno Rato	1	9	
Ampat Petoolee	10	72	Tribute 24,200 guntongs of Paddy.
Moodoong	1	3	
Barooka	1	20	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Lingee	1	40	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Bunokat	1	40	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Pauangeeran	1	10	Tribute 4,600 guntongs of Paddy.
Oolak Bundong	1	8	Tribute 4,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Oejang Maas	3	30	Tribute 7,700 guntongs of Paddy.
Kadoong Agoong	3	30	Tribute 5,700 guntongs of Paddy.
Moorayeneem	1	30	Tribute 5,800 guntongs of Paddy.
Loebok Amplas	1	8	Tribute 4,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Marapee	13	70	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy, and 10,000 guntongs of Pepper delivered on payment.
Ampat Sekoo	9	100	
Ampat Loewah	70	800	Tribute 16,000 guntongs of Paddy and 1,240 bundles of Ramee or Thread.
Soongee Ayeneem	13	60	Tribute 12,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Panang Delapan Poolo .	4	80	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Sanung Grobal	15	150	Tribute 30,000 guntongs of Paddy.

No. VI.

*Account of DOOSUNS, number of CAMPOONGS, and of MEN
rendering feudal Services, in the District of OGAN.*

Names of Doosuns.	No. of Campoongs.	No. of Men.	Deliveries to the Sultaun.
Koewang Jaho	3	40	Tribute 4,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Koewang Dalam	2	40	Tribute 4,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Tanjong Kamalo	3	23	Tribute 5,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Kadátohan Sékap.....	4	72	Tribute 20,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Dooreen.....	4	80	Tribute 2,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Banó Ayoo.....	1	8	Tribute 1,400 guntongs of Paddy.
Bandoong Lángheet....	7	100	
Karong Agoong.....	1	9	Tribute 1,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Sameedáng Laon Dooa	9	70	Tribute 4,120 guntongs of Paddy.
Tampagoongan.....	16	100	Tribute 20,500 guntongs of Paddy.
Sáma Kareen	16	100	Tribute 30,000 guntongs of Paddy, and 1,000 guntongs of Rice.
Dátang Ajee	8	100	Tribute 20,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Láyoo dan Pandán			
Doolang Sékap....	2	32	
Langkayup Booye Ra-			
yup.....	6	80	On payment 3,000 guntongs of Pepper.
Pamalootan	4*	—	
Jágawáneh Publeh da-			
lam	1	7	
Sákateega Publeh da-			
lam	3	—	
Weerajayee		150	
Parwateen.....	5	200	Tribute 25,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Depatee Soogee Wáras..	5	635	
Sarápeeng	1	24	
Seera pooloo Padang ..	1	150	

Kamang

* Comprises the gardens and particular domain of the Sultaun of Palembang.

Names of Doosuns.	No. of Campoongs.	No. of Men.	Deliveries to the Sultaun.
Kamang (preserve for fish).	1	40	
Batang Haree	1	9	
Tanjong Kálong Pablah	1	8	
Lebok Deiling (preserve for fish)	1	14	
Padaug Soongee Boon- geen	1	20	Tribute 5,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Ayer Pooteeh	1	20	Tribute 2,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Poolah Náloh	1	30	
Reedeeng Rambee	2	40	
Rambee Ayer Eetam	1	14	
Kayoo Agoong Sanayoo	9	151	

No. VII.

Account of DOOSUNS, number of CAMPOONGS, and of MEN rendering feudal Services, in the District of REMBANG OGAN.

Names of Doosuns.	No. of Campoongs.	No. of Men.	Pro- duce.	Deliveries to the Sultaun of Palembang.
Chákeel	1	20	Rice	Tribute 5,500 guntongs of Paddy.
Rembang Ampat Sakoo.	6	70	Rice.	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Rembang Kápók Tengah	6	60	Rice.	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Rembang Neeroo	3	30	Rice.	Tribute 5,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Rembang Kooreepan . . .	1	30	Rice.	Tribute 2,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Rembang Loobeeh	3	50	Rice.	Tribute 10,000 guntongs of Paddy.

No. VIII.

*Account of DOOSUNS, number of CAMPOONGS, and of MEN
rendering feudal Services in the District of BANYO
ASSEEN*

Names of Doosuns.	Campoongs Men.		Deliveries to the Sultaun.
	No. of	No. of	
Pangeallan Balee	2	200	Tribute 22,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Loopat	1	10	Tribute 2,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Jereeng	1	15	Tribute 3,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Bábat	1	6	Tribute 1,200 guntongs of Paddy.
Latang	1	8	Tribute 1,600 guntongs of Paddy.
Langkan	2	30	Tribute 6,000 guntongs of Paddy.
Báleek Bookit	2	34	Tribute 6,800 guntongs of Paddy.
Larmok	1	11	Tribute 2,800 guntongs of Paddy.
Kurápeet	1	6	Tribute 1,200 guntongs of Paddy.

No. IX.

Account of DOOSUNS, number of CAMPOONGS, and of MEN rendering feudal Services, in the District of KAMAREENG.

Names of Doosuns.	No. of Campoongs.	No. of Men.	Pro- duce.
Pooloo Kamantoong.....	5	100	Kamareeng Lambak.
Tanjoong Baroo	2	30	
Goonong Batoo.....	1	40	
Chumpang Teege.....	4	60	
Manānga	4	100	
Madang	6	100	
Boomee Pamooka	8		
Bongah Mayeeng	10		
Boomee Pamācha.....	12		
Boomee Agoong.....	50		
Boomee Ranjoong	35		
Goonoong Teege	30		
Ajee Salāboong.....	17		
Ranow	19		
Boomee Loolee.....	40		Kamareng Dárat Batang Haree Wye Ampoo.
Sookoo	40		
Negree	1		
Karta Jace.....	1		
Nagára Báteen	1		
Rambee.....	1		
Nagára Ratoos.....	1		
Goonong Waras	1		
Chace.....	1		
Pakoowan	1		
Taráng Agoong.....	1		
Maseer	1		
Boomee Agoong.....	1		
Zoolang Bawang	1		
Karágan	1		
Balambárgan	1		
Wye Bese Kota Batoe..	1		

Names of Doosuns.	No. of Campoongs.	No. of Men.	Pro- duce.
Kota Boemee.....	1		} Kamareng Dárat Batang Haree Wyee Ampoo.
Pooloo Batoe.....	1		
Bandar Dalam	1		
Bandeeng Ratoe	1		
Nagara Agoon	1		
Pakoowan.....	1		
Gadaong Agoong	1		
Teewa Balik.....	1		
Bandar Maseen.....	1		

No. X.

DEED OF CESSION of *the Islands of BANCA and BILLITON*
to GREAT BRITAIN, referred to in page 96.

Whereas I, the Sultaun Rattoo Ahmed Najm-al-Deen, have taken possession of the throne and sovereignty of the Palembang country, the abode of peace, with the utmost gratitude acknowledging the great favour and regard of the Sovereign Lords of Java, who have elevated me to the throne of this country; and in confidence that the said Lords will pay me yearly as many dollars as may suffice for my want and expenses, I do cede unto the most excellent and most powerful King of England, and to the English Company, the islands of Banca and Billiton, together with the small islands and dependencies thereof, on condition of the great and powerful King and English Company, having made me, my children, and my grand children, from generation to generation, free and independent, unto the end of time. The islands above-named, with the mines and every thing belonging thereto, together with all the inhabitants of every rank now living on Banca, as well as those in time to come, are hereby placed under the sovereign controul of the lords aforesaid, and they will render the same homage unto the said lords as they have been used to do to the Sultauns of Palembang.

Further, I have promised to protect the wives and the children of the people of Banca who may

be living in this country, and not to permit any person to do them any injustice, or to molest them in their persons or property; but they shall be free to return to Banca, whenever they are called by their husbands.

In witness and in confirmation of this treaty seals and signatures are affixed, with the seal and signature of myself, the seal and signature of my eldest son, and the seal and signature of the chief Pangerang.

Written in Palembang, on the 5th day of the moon Jumadal-ahwal, on Sunday, in the year 1227.

Transcript of the DEED OF CESSION of the Islands of BANCA and BILLITON to the KING of GREAT BRITAIN and the ENGLISH EAST-INDIA COMPANY.

Bahwa adáleh pádakó suree Sultaun Ratoo Ahmed Najm-al-Deen yang mem-puniá-i Takhta ka-raja-an Nigree Palembang dar-al-salaam dengan suka-áti mahá-ran mengákooee ma-kásih sáyang tuán tuán yang mengooskan ka-raja-an Nigree Jawa yang suda menároh-kan kita de-átas Takhta ka-rajá-an Nigree ini dan karna percháya kita deree pada tuan tuan yang ter-sebut membáyér réal tiop tiop táun yang boleh sampee balanja kita iáng ka-koorangan dan meniárakan kapada Suree maha-malia Maharaja Nigree England dan Company Engrees, Pooloo Pooloo Bangka dan Blitong serta Pooloo Pooloo kecheel yang talook-nia jadee sabernia betool yang ampoonía

ampoonia yaiut Maha-rajá dan Company Engrees iáng tersebut itu dan lélah kita lepas-kan sindéree serta dengan Anak choochoo kita turan menárun sampée kapada zureez yang máta akhir een.

Pooloo Pooloo yang ter-sebut serta dengan parit-parit dan tumbu-tumbu-an-nia Dan kita ada memarentah kapada segala orang hina dina segali-an yang doodook de Nigree Bangka dan lágee kapada yang desini komacian handek meningál-kan Nigree serta memohon-kan tuan tuan iang memarenta desana de taroh sindéree dibawa parentah tuan tuan iang tersebut dan membree hórmát kapada tuan tuan iang tersebut bagimána ada iya dholo membree hórmát pada-ko suree Sultaun Palembang dan lágee kita ada berjanjee de pa liara-kan segala Beenee dan anak anak orang Banca yang tingkal de nigree ini serta hartá-nia tiada siápa branee membuat aniaya atau haru-biru kapada-nia.

Dan handek-leh de lepas-kan poolang-ka-nigree Bangka serta hartá-nia dan ada-leh saksee dan kantantoo-an per-janjeen ini telah suda de taroh Chap dan tapok-tangan kita serta Chap dan tapok-tangan anak kitá iang besar. Dan chap serta tapak-tangan Pangeran yang besar besar. De Dalam Nigree ini ada-nia.

Tersoorut kapada lima háree boolum Jumádáláwál háree áhud 1227.

No. XI.

*Account of Collections of TIN from the Mines of the Island
of BANCA for the Honourable East-India Company.*

	Collections from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 1813.		Collections from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 1814.		Collections from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 1815.		Collections from 1st Jan. to 2d Dec. 1816.*	
	Pec- culs.	Cat- ties.	Pec- culs.	Cat- ties.	Pec- culs.	Cat- ties.	Pec- culs.	Cat- ties.
Minto, deliveries of Orang Goonoongs and adjacent Mines	743	33	888	61	1,302	1	1,035	83½
Jeboos, including Klabat, Soongy-Booloo, Mam- pang, Jeboo, and Tay- nam	4,861	2	6,911	88	8,529	59	9,117	88
Blingoe, including Loe- moot and Klabat Laot .	†		1,459	46	1,606	5	1,610	24
Soongy Leat, including Mapoor and Lampoor..	324	75	3,612	16½	4,673	32	4,029	6½
Marawang	912	57½	3,152	80½	4,708	61½	6,009	21
Pankal Pinang, including Coba	445	39	2,498	91½	3,079	40½	3,444	5½
Toobooallie, including Kuppo	12	2	625	44	1,291	41	1,406	48
Total of each year	7,299	8½	19,149	36½	25,190	40	26,670	76½

Peculs. Catties.

Total of all Collections, from the 1st January 1813 to
the 2d December 1816 78,309 - 61½

* The collections of 1816 are included only to the 2d December of that
year, the date of transfer of the Island to the Netherlands' Government.

† Delivered this year at Jeboos.

No. XII.

REVENUES of BANCA for 1814, 1815, and 1816.

	Rupees. Stiv. Doits.
To Revenues from Licenses and Port Duties	85,994 19 14
To Profits upon Sales of Stores and Merchandize	107,685 2 14
To Profits upon Tin after paying all Charges of Delivery and Freight	1,704,188 10 14

CHARGES of ADMINISTRATION of BANCA, for 1814, 1815, and 1816.

	Rupees. Stiv. Doits.
By Charges of Civil Establishment of the Residency and Mine Districts	334,033 13 24
By Charges Military Establishment	296,500 13 24
Commissariat	33,476 7 3
By Charges Marine, including Expenditure of Stores and Victualling	179,081 7 14
By Charges of Public Works	83,901 1 34
By Charges Contingent	15,929 26 1
By Charges Political	9,806 9 24
By Loss of Treasure and Stores in a Gun-Boat upset	11,564 24 0
By Loss of two Gun Boats	5,600 0 0
By Balance for Nett Revenue	969,893 14 04
	927,964 18 04
	1,898,857 2 1

The Charge of Importation of Chinese is not included in the above.

1,897,858 2 1



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